



THE TORCH

www.aquinas-catholic.com



March 2023

Aquinas Families,



2022-23 Theme

As we approach Easter and the beginning of the 4th Quarter, here is a run down of the last month or so:

Lent - *“Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God.”* (Joel 2:12, from Ash Wednesday) We gathered as a school on Ash Wednesday to begin the Penitential Season of Lent. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of celebrating Lent as a family. As the primary educators of your children, please make sure to do something as a family for Lent.

Holy Family ELC – This month we welcomed a new Program Director for Holy Family Early Learning Center. We welcome back Kate Krafka to Holy Family. Kate graduated college from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, where she met her husband, Cody. They have a two-year-old son, Graham. She has loved getting to know the families within the David City community and is looking forward to leading the center.

Holy Family ELC Openings - We continue to need both full-time and part-time workers at Holy Family. Even if availability is only a couple of days a week, please consider putting in an application. Online applications can be submitted on the Aquinas website: <https://aquinas-catholic.com/careers/>.

New Business Manager – We also welcome a new Business Manager this coming March. Alina Strong comes to us from the St. Louis area with over twenty years of experience in bookkeeping. She has been married to her husband Cody for 11 years and has two children. Her youngest will be attending Aquinas Elementary starting 4th quarter. Her family will be moving into the Shelby/Rising City area.

Wrestling – A big congratulations to our wrestling team! This past month they were Champions at the State Duals and at State. Ten of our young men made it to state competition with six medaling. This was my first experience going to Kearney and Omaha and it was a great time. We are very proud of their accomplishments. Go Monarchs!

Mama Mia - Our drama department is at it again. Mark your calendars for March 24-26 and plan on attending our Spring Musical.

Elementary Openings – We currently have positions open for 4th, 1st and Kindergarten at Aquinas Elementary. Applicants may apply online at <https://aquinas-catholic.com/careers/>

New in 23-24– Cheerleading and Girls Wrestling! Watch the daily announcements for more info.

Wishing you and your family a Blessed Lent

Fr. Michael Ventre
CAO Aquinas Catholic Schools



FR. MICHAEL VENTRE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MR. SPENCER ZYSSET, PRINCIPAL

Middle/High School Principal letter- March 2023

Recent happenings

Tri-Councils- Thank you to those parents and students who attended Tri-Councils on February 9th. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you in your students' education. 58% of MS/HS families attended February Tri-Councils, which is down from 67% in October. Last year 81% of families attended October Tri-Councils and 66% attended in February.

Congratulations wrestling team and coaches- It was a highly successful winter campaign for the Monarch wrestlers in bringing home both the State Dual Championship and the State Tournament Championship. Congratulations to all the wrestlers and coaches!

Faculty and staff changes for 2023-2024- There will be a number of faculty and staff changes happening as the 2022-2023 school year comes to a close. We will be announcing new hires later on, but we are excited about the additions we have joining the Aquinas family so far!

23-24 Class requests- Class request forms will be handed out to students approximately in mid-March.

Upcoming events, schedule changes and reminders

Speech districts- Sat. March 4th

Open House- Tues. March 7th (7:00-8:00pm)

End of 3rd Quarter- Thur. March 9th

No School- Fri. March 10th

Daylight Savings Time begins- Sun. March 12th

Conference honor choir- Mon. March 13th

ESU 7 Quiz Bowl- Tues. March 15th

State Speech- Thur. March 17th

Spring Musical- Fri. March 24th-Sun. March 26th

No School- Fri. March 31st

CHANGED: No School- Thur. April 6th

(Holy Thursday)

CHANGED: End of school year schedule

(Bishop's Day Off #2)_Friday May 19th

- Last day for PK-8

Monday May 22nd and Tuesday May 23rd HS Finals

Wednesday May 23rd- Faculty workday

God Bless!

Spencer Zysset

Spencer Zysset, Principal

St. Joseph's Villa

of David City, NE



is looking for caring people, **16 years and older**, who would like to join our staff as Certified Nursing Assistants.

St. Joseph's Villa will reimburse you for the cost of the class and books contingent on your employment at St. Joseph's Villa. A sign on Bonus for part time or full-time employees is also available.

CNA classes at Central Community College, Columbus, NE and will be held in May and July.

Space is limited...inquire soon.

<https://www.cccneb.edu>

For more information on employment opportunities contact

businessmanager@saintjosephsvilla.org

402-367-3045



From the Principal's Desk at Aquinas Elementary

Enjoy these notes and the teacher summaries on the following pages.

Growing through Lent

Hopefully your Lent is off to a great start. Our students have several Lenten items to help track their growth—a Lenten promise form, a Fish to color in, and a Eucharistic Adoration rosary. There are so many exciting things going on around the school this month. Here are the details on a few of them.

Here are a *few of the events going on at Aquinas Catholic Elementary* right now:

- ITBS testing (Feb. 27-Mar. 10): students show what they have learned this year on this annual assessment of reading, math, science, and social studies.
- **Lenten Promise Homework:** students are tracking their Lenten progress on a fish with 40 scales. Turn in for Virtues homework for Mar. (Due Apr. 11-14).
- **Art Club:** Is working on a fun St. Patrick's Day project.
- **Confession Cookies:** The cooks have been sharing a cookie or treat on our monthly confession day to remind us all of the "sweet" gift of the grace of Confession.
- **Thomas Edison Pitch project:** A handful of 5th graders are going to pitch their robotics innovative project idea to the Thomas Edison group in April. This includes competition for another 3-D printer for the school.
- **Speech Competition:** Congratulations to the 8 elementary students who participated in the Optimist Club Speech contest, especially Dylan Masilko who placed 3rd!
- **Field Trips:** classrooms are getting ready to head out for their spring field trips. Each grade sets up a fun and educational experience for their students.

Classroom Activities: see the fun stories to follow...

Thank you for all you do! Many blessings on your beautiful families.

God bless, Mrs. Sarah Zook, Principal

Kindergarten Roundup, Mar. 14, 6:00-7:30 PM. Come learn more about the K Program, meet the teachers, turn in paper work and get questions answered. Parents new to Aquinas should bring:

- Birth certificate
- Baptism certificate
- Immunization record
- (Can fill out enrollment and scholarship application during the event. Bring 2021 or 2022 1040 Tax form to complete scholarship.)

Preschool Parent Meeting, Mar. 23, 6:00-7:00 PM. Parents can learn about the different preschool/Pre-K options available. They can tour the school, ask questions, and complete their application.

Grandparents Day/Spring Program, Mar. 29

Students are learning some beautiful songs for the Spring/Grandparents Day Program!
both events at Aquinas High School, North Gym

1:30 PM, Grandparents Matinee (K-5)

6:30 PM, general performance (PK-5) – Band arrive by 6:10, K-4 by 6:20

- Preschool/PK, arrive at 6:20 to the stage, pick up by the stage after the performance.

March 2023

Aquinas Catholic Schools



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3	4
				Faculty Meeting 10:00AM Late Start State GBB Tournament 6:00PM Post Prom Meeting	State GBB Tournament	ACT Registration Due State GBB Tournament	Show Choir to LNE State GBB Tournament
5	2nd Sunday of Lent	7	7-8:00 PM MS/HS Open House	8 TBA Show Choir @ Harvard State BBB Tournament	9 End of Quarter 3 State BBB Tournament	10 NO SCHOOL State BBB Tournament	11 Presentation Fund Raiser State BBB Tournament
12	3rd Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins	14	6-7:30PM Kindergarten Round-up	15 12:30PM District Quiz Bowl @ CCC	16 State Speech @ Kearney AMS @ Malcolm Music Festival	17	18
19	4th Sunday of Lent	21	4:00PM B/G TR DC/Shelby Tri @ DC	22 Penance Service	23	24 7:00PM Spring Musical	25 7:00PM Spring Musical
26	5th Sunday of Lent 2:00PM Spring Musical	28	2:00PM B/G TR @ Scotus Invite	29 12:30PM Aquinas Bloodmobile 6:30PM Elementary Music Concert	30	31 NO SCHOOL	

Aquinas Catholic Elementary

LEARN. EXPLORE. ROAR!



KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

REGISTRATION & TOUR

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

BRING Birth Certificate, Baptism Certificate, and Tax Info. for Scholarships

AQUINAS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

**preschool
parent meeting**

OPEN HOUSE TBA

there will be an
open house during
the summer for
future preschoolers

**Thursday
March 23
6-7pm**

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

\$150,000 GOAL

89%



Rev. Mr.
Scott Nemec
2015 Grad



Trev Moravec family
2006 Grad

**FUND
VOGATIONS**

Thank you for all who have donated to the Annual Appeal. We have reached 89% of our \$150,000 goal to fund the gap.

If you haven't yet, please help us reach our goal!
This campaign will end on June 30, 2023

Gold Rush Steering Committee

Todd & Malinda Hilfiker

Corey & Jenny Kavan

Jason & Tori Lavicky

Trev & Michaela Moravec

Zack & Morgan Chadwick

Travis & Lindsay Truksa

Kyle & Carly Eller

Brad & Chana Sloup

Brian & Bri Birkel

Jared & Paula Dewispelare

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

BUS RAFFLE

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

\$5,000

\$2,500

\$1,000

\$1,000

\$500

\$100 A TICKET

Winners drawn at Gold Rush, April 1, 2023

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!

Tickets sold at the Aquinas Office, in your Gold Rush Invitation, or from any Gold Rush Committee Member

Aquinas High School Drama and Music Departments

Present:

MAMMA MIA!

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BENNY ANDERSSON AND BJORN ULVAEUS

AND SOME SONGS WITH STIG ANDERSON

BOOK BY CATHERINE JOHNSON

ORIGIANNAL CONCEIVED BY JUDY CRAYMER

Friday March 24—7:00 PM show only

Saturday March 25—6 PM Dinner Theater reservations only - 7 PM Show open to all

Saturday March 25, 2023

Dinner Theater—Buffet Style:

Roast Beef and/or Broasted
Chicken

Potatoes, Salad, Bread

Dessert

Tea, Coffee, Water

\$25.00

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A large cast, non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers combine to make *Mamma Mia!* a guaranteed smash hit for any theatre. A mother. A daughter. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Luncheon Theater Buffet:

Chicken Fried Steak

Breakfast Casserole

Potatoes, Fruit, Bread

Dessert

Tea, Coffee, Water

\$20.00

PRIORITY ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

I would like to order:

Saturday Night: (please be seated by 6:00pm) Number of Tickets: _____ x \$25.00 each Amount: _____

Sunday Afternoon: (please be seated by 1:00pm) Number of Tickets: _____ x \$20.00 each Amount: _____

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____ with this form—

Please Mail (P.O. Box 149 David City, NE 68632) or drop off at Aquinas Catholic Schools—no tickets will be reserved without a payment with them—

NO EXCHANGES - NO REFUNDS



.....from everyone at

Aquinas Catholic Schools!

Thank you to Bob Hilger and R.J. Hein for helping with snow removal.

Thank you to everyone who supported the SOUL CLUB Fundraiser in anyway! It was a great success!

Thank you to everyone who brought the teachers and staff goodies and snacks during the holiday season! They were greatly appreciated!

Thank you to the Butler County Courthouse Employees for supporting the Guardian Angel Fund!

Thanks for all the cards, kind words, and the cross that was given to me on my mom's passing. The Beller Family really appreciates your thoughtfulness at this difficult time.

Thank you to the Aquinas Home School Association for the donuts and juice during Catholic Schools Week!

FIRST GRADE

February is dental health month. Heath Ketteler, who will be graduating from UNMC in May as a dentist, came to first grade to teach about how to keep your teeth clean and healthy. He also brought instruments he uses when he works with patients for the kids to see! He's excited to soon be opening his practice in David City after he graduates!

Mrs. Vavrina
& Mrs. Ketteler



THIRD GRADE

We are in the middle of our map unit in Social Studies. We will learn all the continents, oceans, hemispheres, and states surrounding Nebraska as well as the parts of a map. In Religion, we are learning about the importance of frequent confession and how to make a good confession. We also made crosses to write down our Lenten sacrifices. We know that these sacrifices will bring us closer to Jesus.

Mrs. Janak & Mrs. Naiberk



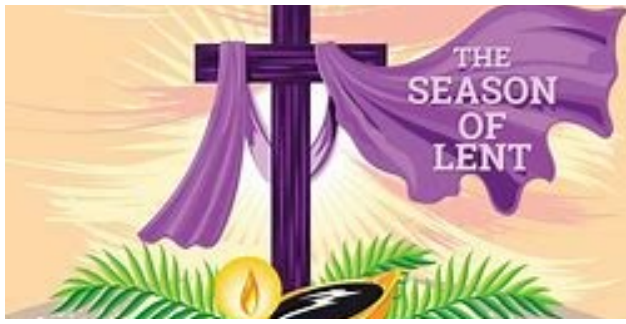
The **FOURTH** graders were able to visit with several Religious and Fr. Kovar on Tuesday as they talked about their vocation and their journey with Jesus. Here they are pictured with Postulant Mary Jo and Sister Guadalupe. Sister Guadalupe and Father Kovar were students of St. Mary's and are Aquinas alumni.

Ms. Koranda & Mr. Beller

**5th
G
R
A
D
E**



5th graders created a movie based on a book that was read to them. Students are filming a scene of their version of "CRASH" as part of the 11 minute movie. **Mrs. Conte & Mrs. Nenhueser**



Aquinas Catholic Elementary
March 2023
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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily	Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge	1 Sausage Gravy over Biscuit Fried Egg Patty Potato Rounds Cheese Stick Peaches	2 Chicken Strips Cheesy Ranch Mashed Potatoes Roll Corn Oranges	3 Bosco Sticks Marinara Cup Green Beans Grapes Rice Krispy Treat
6 Chicken Teriyaki Noodles Broccoli Pineapple	7 Bacon Cheeseburger on Bun Cheese Slice Pickles Tater Tots Rosy Pears	8 Chili Baby Carrots Cinnamon Roll Warm Cinnamon Apples Crackers Shredded Cheese	9 Frito Pie Taco Meat, Nacho Cheese Sauce Corn Churro Tropical Fruit	10 No School
13 BBQ Pork on Bun Baked Beans Potato Chips Applesauce Cup	14 Turkey, Ham & Cheese Sub Sandwich Condiments Baby Carrots Sun Chips Strawberries & Blueberries	15 Chicken Alfredo Rotini Noodles Broccoli Garlic Breadstick Pineapple	16 Beef Hard Taco Condiments Potato Rounds Churro Peaches	17 Tuna & Noodle Casserole Peas Dinner Roll Emerald Pears
20 Scalloped Potatoes & Ham Peas Dinner Roll Garlic Toast Mandarin Oranges	21 Chicken Drumstick Cheesy Hashbrown Casserole Roll Mixed Veggies Apple Slush	22 Spaghetti & Meat Sauce Corn Peaches	23 Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Dinner Roll Pears	24 Strawberry Pancakes Syrup Hashbrown Cheese Omelet Celery & PB Yogurt Grapes
27 Meat Trio Pizza Lettuce Salad Breadstick Peaches	28 Club Wrap Pretzels Broccoli Ranch Strawberries	29 Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll Pineapple	30 BBQ Rib on Bun Baked Beans Tater Tots Oranges	31 No School

Campus Ministry

Dear Parents and Friends of Aquinas,

You may remember my last Torch letter was promoting the Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference. I am thrilled to tell you that we have 50 students from Aquinas Catholic going! THIS IS RECORD BREAKING!!! Our group will fill 1 of the 4 busses going from the Diocese of Lincoln. The Conference July 7-9, 2023 is sold out with 5000 students from Mid-America filling the arena at Missouri State Campus, Springfield, MO! This is exciting for our students to share this experience. Thank you, parents for getting your sons and daughters registered! Students were lit up and excited about going! See below what else we have going on at Aquinas! God bless you all!

Mrs. Nemec, Campus Minister

Upcoming Aquinas Retreats

- ◆ The Senior Retreat is set for Tuesday, May 2nd.
- ◆ 6th Grade Retreat is scheduled for April 12th.
- ◆ 7th Grade retreat will be March 9th
- ◆ 8th Grade retreat is March 13th

Diocesan Retreats

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) Retreats

- ◇ Camp Kateri April 15 to 17
- ◇ Aquinas June 10-12, 2023!
- ◇ Use QR Code for more information and registration!



Aquinas Catholic School Activities

Email- ron-mimick@cdolinc.net

Congratulations to the winners of the yearly
Aquinas Booster Club raffle.

List of 2022-23 winners

\$1,000- Brandon Smith	\$500- Jill Kobza	\$500- Kristin Hartman
\$1,000- Tim Wollmer	\$500- Gerald Osmera	\$500- Dr. Jo Witter
\$1,000- Russ Daro	\$500- Marty Krafka	\$500- Randy Schawang
\$1,000- Nathan Wall	\$500- Austin Svoboda	\$500- Ken Polacek
\$1,000- Joe Birkel	\$500- Matt Croghan	\$500- Jerry Roh
\$500- Nancy Prochaska	\$500- Julie Vandenberg	\$500- Andy & Lynsey Valenti
\$500- Collins Chiropractic	\$500- Brayden Schneider	\$500- Mark Rerucha
\$500- Dave McMahon	\$500- Austin Witmer	
\$500- Jim Vandenberg	\$500- Jim Egr	

Aquinas will need to rent, borrow or purchase a small enclosed trailer for storage and transport of Burger bash items. If you can help in any way please let me know. Thanks!...Ron Mimick

**Due to the small Senior class,
Baccalaureate Mass
will be at the Aquinas Chapel May
17 at 7:00 p.m.**



March 2023

6-12 Lunch Calendar



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Veg/fruit bar & milk offered everyday Menus are subject to change</p>	<p>1 Faculty Meeting 10:00AM Late Start Hot Ham & Cheese Chips California Blend Fruit</p>	<p>2 Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Side Salad Fruit Garlic Bread</p>	<p>3 Shrimp Poppers Mac & Cheese Peas Fruit</p>	<p>4 State GBB Tournament</p>		
<p>5 2nd Sunday of Lent</p>	<p>6 Pulled Pork Sandwich Baked Beans Cole Slaw Fruit</p>	<p>7 Chicken Strips French Fries Mixed Veggies Fruit Blueberry Muffin</p>	<p>8 Choice of Soup Lunch Meat Sandwich Jell-o Fruit</p>	<p>9 Goulash Side Salad Fruit Garlic Breadstick</p>	<p>10 NO SCHOOL State BBB Tournament</p>	<p>11 State BBB Tournament</p>
<p>12 3rd Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins</p>	<p>13 Meatball Subs French Fries Green Beans Fruit</p>	<p>14 French Toast Sticks Sausage Patty Yogurt Fruit</p>	<p>15 Chicken alfredo Side Salad Fruit Garlic Bread</p>	<p>16 Taquitos Refried Beans Spanish Rice Fruit Brownie</p>	<p>17 Cheese Pizza Tri Tater Green Beans Fruit</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 4th Sunday of Lent</p>	<p>20 Baked Potato Bar Garnishes Broccoli Fruit Strawberry Shortcake</p>	<p>21 Hamburger/Bun French Fries California Blend Fruit</p>	<p>22 Porkette Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Corn Fruit Tea Roll</p>	<p>23 Ham & Scalloped Potatoes Green Beans Fruit</p>	<p>24 Fish Sandwich Tater Tots Peas Fruit</p>	<p>25 7:00PM Spring Musical</p>
<p>26 5th Sunday of Lent 2:00PM Spring Musical</p>	<p>27 Breaded Chicken Patty on a Hamburger Bun Chips Mixed Veggies Fruit</p>	<p>28 French Bread Pizza Tri Tater Side Salad Fruit</p>	<p>29 Tacos Garnishes Corn Fruit Rice Krispie Bar</p>	<p>30 Mr. Rib Sandwich Tater Tot California Blend Fruit</p>	<p>31 NO SCHOOL</p>	

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Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.

Psalm 26:2,3

AQUINAS CATHOLIC

AQUINAS CATHOLIC

ELEMENTARY

MS/HS

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3420 MN RD. PO BOX 149

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