

ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

5/7/24 Issue #17

TEACHER FEATURE

Hello, Bluejays!

I am Erica Wimer, one of the kindergarten teachers here at Guardian Angels Central Catholic. My dream job was to teach at the school I attended growing up, and here I am in my 7th year at GACC! I am also one of the assistant coaches for our high school softball team. I have a black Lab named Khiya, a rabbit named Dust Bunny, and I will add a Shih Tzu puppy named Hattie to my pet crew in a couple of weeks! You will often find me spending oodles of time with my family and friends or walking my dog on a beautiful day!!



DATES TO KNOW


- 4/17: EDGE end-of-year party in the cafeteria at 7:00 PM
- 4/19: 3rd Grade to Circus
- 4/23: 2nd Grade to Rose Theater
- 4/24: Bluejay Pride shirt (or any Bluejay shirt) with uniform bottoms
- 4/25: K-3 Barnyard at WP-B
- 4/26: 1st Grade to Sioux City Museums
- 4/26: April Birthdays Comfy Clothes
- 4/28: First Communion - 2:00 PM
- 5/1: SPA Drive Thru Dinner
- 5/2: 2nd Grade to Trinity Heights
- 5/2: 6th Grade to downtown West Point
- 5/3: All School Mass & May Crowning
- 5/3: Last Day of Library Classes
- 5/10: All Library Books Due



Don't forget to hand in permission forms for field trips!

Reminders

- GACC will now be doing an all-school Mass on the first Friday of the month at 8:15 AM, unless we do not have school the first Friday. Then, we will have our regular scheduled Elementary Mass on Thursdays at 8:15 AM.



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK 5/6-5/10

GUARDIAN ANGELS CENTRAL CATHOLIC



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
408 E Walnut Street
West Point, NE 68788
402-372-5328

HIGH SCHOOL
419 E Decatur Street
West Point, NE 68788
402-372-5326

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Dear Parents,

With the end of the school year fast approaching, I felt it was a good time to let you know about our **projected** staffing for next year. We are certainly looking forward to having more teachers hired for the 2024-2025 school year and are excited to make this announcement.

Mrs. Tracie Reeson will be joining us as our new 1st grade teacher. Mrs. Jessica Heiser will be our new 2nd grade teacher, and Mrs. Zoey Bracht will join us as our new 4th grade teacher. Our new hires bring wonderful teaching experience into our school, and we are certainly excited to have them join the nest!

After meeting with our upper elementary teachers, it was decided that 5th grade will be a single classroom and Mrs. Kristy Ortmeier will be the teacher. Her classroom will be supported with Mrs. Jodi Disher teaching Science and a full-time Teacher's Aide each day of the week.

We are truly blessed at Guardian Angels Central Catholic to have such a highly qualified teaching staff and are even more blessed to have three more excellent teachers join our Bluejay Nest.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Paula Peatrowsky

2024-2025 Staffing

Preschool	Mrs. Denise Baumert	3rd Grade	Mrs. Joyce Ortmeier
Pre-Kindergarten	Mrs. Mollie Stokely	3rd Grade	Mrs. Emily Roeber
Kindergarten	Ms. Erica Wimer	4th Grade	Mrs. Cindy Stratman
Kindergarten	Mrs. Morgan Jacobsen	4th Grade	Mrs. Zoey Bracht
1st Grade	Mrs. Ashley Prinz	5th Grade	Mrs. Kristy Ortmeier
1st Grade	Mrs. Tracie Reeson		(only one 5th grade classroom)
2nd Grade	Mrs. Brooke Meister	6th Grade	Mrs. Michelle Ulrich
			(Reading, Social Studies, Religion)
2nd Grade	Mrs. Jessica Heiser	6th Grade	Mrs. Krista Batenhorst
			(Math, Science, English)

THE MISSION OF GUARDIAN ANGELS CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS TO PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL BY LEARNING AND LEADING THROUGH CHRIST.



For more than 135 years, GACC has been preparing students to reach their fullest potential by learning and leading through Christ and we are planning for its successful future! Find updated information about our capital campaign by visiting:

<https://www.gaccbluejays.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Capital%20Campaign>



SPA Paper Trailer

Effective Immediately!

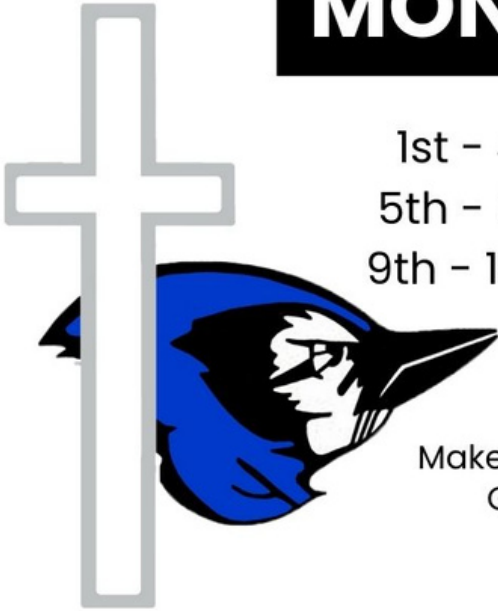
The Paper Trailer will be open for drop off EVERY Thursday from 8 AM - 8 PM and on the scheduled paper trailer weekends (every 3rd Saturday). If you have a large amount of paper/cardboard needing dumped outside of these times, please schedule a time by calling Nikki Schmader at 402-719-7481.

Bluejay

WRESTLING

Camp

MONDAY, MAY 20TH

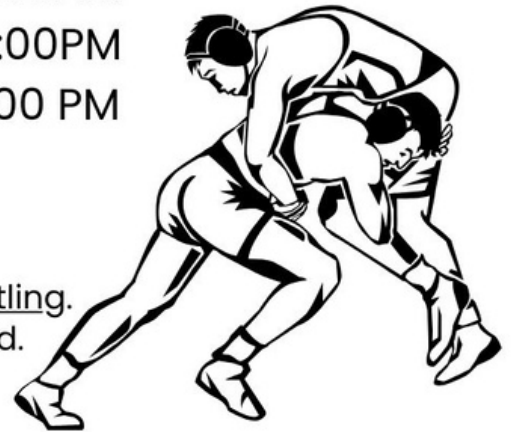


1st - 4th Grade	9:00AM - 11:00AM
5th - 8th Grade	12:00PM - 2:00PM
9th - 12th Grade	2:30PM - 4:00 PM

(2024-2025 School Year)

Price: \$20

Make Checks payable to GACC Wrestling.
Gatorade & water will be provided.



Location: GACC gym

The camp will be instructed by the high school coaches.

Return to the GA or CC office by **Wednesday, May 1st**

ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT JOSH BATENHORST @ 402-380-5395

****THESE HAVE BEEN HANDED OUT****



BLUEJAY WRESTLING CAMP

It is expressly understood that Guardian Angels Central Catholic, as well as its coaches, do not insure against and accept no responsibility for personal injury which might be sustained as a result of participation in camp. Each camper is responsible for his own medical insurance.

CAMPER'S NAME: _____

GRADE: _____
(2024-2025 School Year)

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

CELL #: _____

DRIVE-THRU DINNER

Supportive Parents Association Fundraiser

MAY 1ST

5-7 PM

@ GACC CAFETERIA

MENU

Steak Sandwiches
Cheesy Hashbrowns
Green Beans
Homemade Dessert

Catered by: *Graybeal's*

PRE-ORDER

by

APRIL 24

\$15 PER MEAL

Meals must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by April 24, 2024. Cash or checks made to: GACC SPA. To order, return the form and payment to GACC office or St. Mary's Rectory.

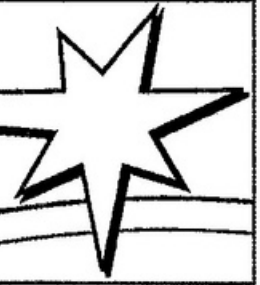
Name _____

Number of Meals _____ x \$15= _____

Total Enclosed _____

****THESE HAVE BEEN HANDED OUT****

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2024

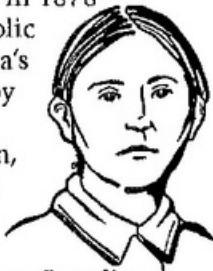
St. Mary's Parish
Fr. James Weeder, Pastor



Thoughtful Moments

St. Gemma Galgani

Born in Tuscany in 1878 to a devout Catholic family, St. Gemma's life was marked by consolation and suffering. Early on, she loved to pray, mystically conversing with Jesus, Mary, and her Guardian Angel. She suffered the loss of half her family to tuberculosis and was prevented from entering the Passionist Order due to her own poor health. She died of tuberculosis at the age of 25.



Religion, front and center

Treat children's religious education classes as the most important education they receive. Make attendance and homework as much a priority as "regular" school. Mastering the content they learn may not get them into college, but it will guarantee their entrance into someplace even more important.

"Truly, the Lord is waiting to be gracious to you, truly, he shall rise to show you mercy; For the Lord is a God of justice: happy are all who wait for him!" (Isaiah 30:18)



Family habits that can help keep youngsters Catholic

Recent studies have revealed that many Catholic children leave the Faith when they leave high school. Those who remain faithful to Jesus come from families who follow four "best practices."

Consider these:

Cultivate communion: Researchers found that families who shared a meal regularly are more likely to raise faithful Catholic adults. It's a powerful way to strengthen communion, teach values, and share a love for Jesus. Resolve to have family meals three or four times weekly (without screens).

Be open to questions: Most young people leave the Church because they had many faith-based questions but no answers. Encourage children to ask and seek the answers together. Teach them

how to use reliable sources, starting with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* or turn to your local pastor.

Form a prayer tradition: Keep it simple. Gather round a Crucifix to pray for intentions and exchange a sign of peace. Let a different child lead the "nightly decade," or sing a hymn together and offer a

blessing before bedtime.

Make prayer whatever works for you.

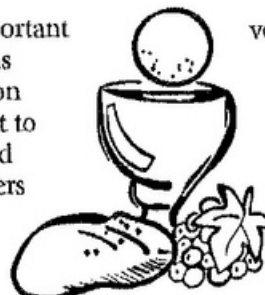
Encourage service: Faithful adults tend to grow up in families that prioritized service to the poor. Look for a way to donate time, talent or treasure to those in need. Your parish may need your support of one of its ministries. Let God's priorities shape your own.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate Communion?

The Mass is the most important and powerful gift we have as Catholics. Holy Communion brings us into union – heart to heart – with Jesus, really and truly present. When He enters a soul, He brings with Him countless graces: peace, healing, remission for



venial sins, strength, spiritual nourishment, and a "love...strong as death" (Song of Songs 8:6). When Jesus enters the sanctuary of our hearts in Holy Communion, and especially at one's First Communion, it's a cause for joyful celebration.

How do our children benefit from weekly Mass?

If your family was invited to dinner and you knew Jesus would be there, would you go? Of course you would! You know how blessed your children would be just by being in Jesus' presence. In fact, Jesus is present – in person – at every Mass. Your children are blessed by Him:

Good food. Parents are careful to feed children well so they stay strong and healthy. At Sunday Mass, Jesus gives us the food we need for our souls to stay strong and healthy.

Good practice. God told us to keep holy

the Sabbath Day and to observe His laws. Teaching children to obey God's rules is great practice for teaching them to obey ours.

Good listening. When we go to Mass, we hear God's Word. Familiarity with Scripture builds the lifelong skill of listening for God's voice.

Good company. Each of us is needed by our Catholic community. *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:20).



Scripture LESSON

John 15:1-8, "Remain in me"

In this Gospel passage, Jesus compares life with Him to the Vine and its branches. Our connection with Him is absolutely vital for our souls. The stark reality is that a vine-branch can't be cut off and "transplanted" in the soil; it's either attached to the vine or it withers and dies.

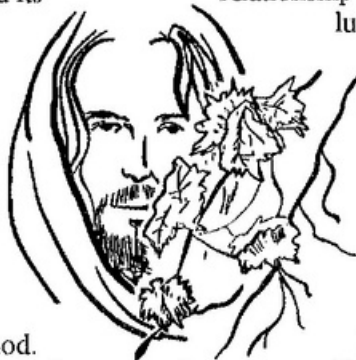
Why does Jesus say something so shocking? Because He is the Word of God.

Jesus Christ must be the center of our lives. While some are called to devote themselves more radically to Christ than others (e.g. monks, nuns, and priests), everyone is called to deep, living

intimacy with Him. A close relationship with Christ isn't a luxury; it's a necessity for our spiritual health.

What can a parent do? Teach children that Jesus must be the center of our hearts, souls, and lives. Help them to build the habit of praying to Him often. Teach

them that weekly Mass and monthly Confession is needed to "keep in touch" with their Friend. To the extent that our hearts belong to Jesus, we will find lasting peace and joy.



Feasts & Celebrations

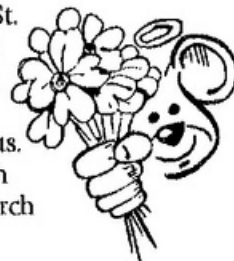
April 3 – St. Richard of Chichester (1253). Born in England, St. Richard studied law at Bologna. Known for his holiness and administrative skills, he was named archbishop of Chichester, but because of political persecution, spent most of his office in exile. St. Richard died in Dover while preaching a crusade.

April 7 – Divine Mercy Sunday (1931). Jesus asked St. Faustina to ensure that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of Mercy." He promised special graces and mercy to whoever honors him as the King of

Mercy and prays The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

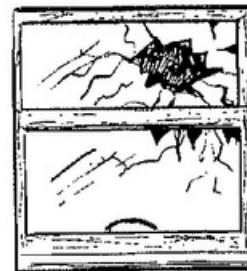
April 8 – The Annunciation of the Lord. The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the Mother of God, to which she had complete confidence in God's wisdom.

April 25 – St. Mark the Evangelist (First Century). St. Mark wrote his Gospel based on St. Peter's perspective and accompanied Saints Paul and Barnabas in Cyprus. He is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria.



Parent TALK

When we moved into a new neighborhood, I became concerned about some of the boys Toby started playing with.



They seemed a little wild and some of the neighbors accused them of vandalism and stealing. I told Toby of

my concerns but said I wouldn't forbid him from playing with them. However, if the boys committed any misdeeds – whether he participated or not – I would hold Toby solely responsible.

That next week Toby ran home in a panic. Even though he "told them not to," the boys threw a rock through Mr. Grayson's front window. I walked Toby back to Mr. Grayson's house where he apologized for his and his friends' behavior and made arrangements to replace the window.

He had to mow a lot of lawns and rake a lot of leaves to pay for the window but he quickly lost interest in those friends, much to my relief.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of Growing In Faith™ and Partners In Faith™
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

PRO-LIFE SPEAKING EVENT FEATURING

Ramona Treviño

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

7:00 PM

GACC ACTIVITY CENTER

419 E. DECATUR • WEST POINT

Refreshments served following our speaker

PUBLIC WELCOME • NO CHARGE



Ramona Treviño, Outreach Director

Ramona Treviño worked as the manager of a Planned Parenthood abortion referral facility in Sherman, Texas until 2011 when God used the prayers and public witness of a 40 Days for Life campaign to move her to leave her job and reclaim her walk with Christ.

Ramona's resignation from Planned Parenthood resulted in her former center going out of business.

Ramona has shared the miracle of her conversion and the goodness of Christ's mercy throughout the U.S. and internationally through speaking engagements as well as print, broadcast, and online media.

Ramona is a wife, mother, and grandmother. She is the author of *Redeemed by Grace: A Catholic Woman's Journey to Planned Parenthood and Back*.

Sponsored by: St. Mary's Pro-life, Knights of Columbus
One Rose One Life fund, and other
Generous Donors



Free Community Shred Day

Wednesday, April 24

4:00-5:30PM

Nielsen Center Canopy

Suggested Items:

Old bank statements
Credit card statements
Old tax returns
Any documents with
personal information

We Will NOT Accept:

Magazines
Newspapers
Cardboard
Styrofoam

100lb Limit Per Household or Business

Paper Items are Shredded Onsite



Member FDIC

SECOND ANNUAL

GACC FIELD DAY



Grades
K-6



Tuesday, May 14th
@ the West Point - Beemer Track
Rain date Wednesday May 15th

Information

- Please send your child to school wearing tennis shoes, athletic clothing, & sunscreen.
- Send your child with a water bottle.
- A sack lunch will be provided for each student.
- Parents & grandparents are welcome to attend. You may arrive after 8:30 a.m.
- We are allowed to park in the high school parking lot located on the SW side of the school. Be careful not to park in the elementary parking lot.
- Many VOLUNTEERS are needed! A sign-up link will be coming home soon.

START TIME
9:00 AM

SPA is
providing
popsicles for
each
student!



A map & a schedule of events will be shared end of April