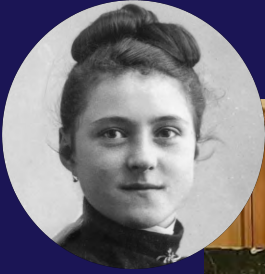


The Saint Teresa Times

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Have A Good Handshake

Pastor:
Fr. Nicholas Kipper

At the end of January, we had the annual tradition of celebrating Catholic Schools Week at St. Teresa Catholic School. Catholic Schools Week is a week that is out of the ordinary with a lot of fun and diversion from the ordinary schedule. Most of all, it's a good time to remember the great gift that our Catholic Schools truly are for us.

This year, we had the once-in-a-lifetime honor of having Governor Jim Pillen come to our school and sign the proclamation celebrating Catholic Schools Week for the entire state. Governor Pillen is a Catholic from Columbus, who is a graduate of Catholic Schools, and is a longtime supporter of Catholic Schools.

Governor Pillen told the students of St. Teresa to be appreciative of the Catholic School education that they have received. He asked them directly to thank their parents for sending them to a Catholic School. Subsequently, in homilies at school Masses, I encouraged our students to do the same.

I have to admit this hits me to the core. It made me think about my own Catholic school education. I went to St. Teresa Pre-School, Cathedral of the Risen Christ Kindergarten through 8th Grade, and then Pius X High School 9th through 12th grade.

I honestly look at this Catholic education of mine as a priceless blessing in my life. Nothing could really replace it. I can't think about my life outside of the formation I received in the Catholic schools.

There was a little tidbit of the governor's visit that I thought particularly thought provoking. The governor could have talked about anything. But, do you know what the governor told our students? He said, "have a good handshake." That's right. The governor of the State of Nebraska told our students that when you shake hands, look at the person in the face, and shake their hand with confidence.

While this might seem like a small, insignificant gesture, I think a handshake demon-

strates how we live as a community. When we look someone in the eye and greet them, we show them respect.

As members of the Body of Christ, we connected with each other for all eternity. The bonds we create today are not just in the here and now but they last for all eternity. When we shake hands, it has a lasting effect.

In our culture, we often shake the hands of many people. We probably do this without much thought. When we do this, we should think eternally. When I shake someone's hand, let me remember the blessings that have been given me and how our bonds of communion are meant to last forever.

May God bless you all!



Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen visited St. Teresa School to sign the proclamation for Catholic Schools Week. Students prayed a decade of the rosary for Governor Pillen and sang God Bless America!

Meet Mrs. Cynthia Werner

St. Teresa Third Grade Teacher

When did you start teaching at St. Teresa School? I began teaching at St. Teresa School in August 1997.

Why did you want to teach at a Catholic School? Even before I graduated from UNL with my teaching degree I desired to teach in a Catholic school. I have always felt God calling me to be a Catholic school teacher. I love that I am able to share my faith with my students throughout the school day and help them to discover that they are beloved children of God. It is a joy to teach them not only reading, math, science,

etc., but also the truth, beauty and goodness that exists in the world because God made it.

Why did you want to teach at St. Teresa School specifically? My husband, Tim, and I moved into St. Teresa Parish in 1994. We decided to enroll our two daughters in St. Teresa School even though I was teaching at St. Mary School at the time. I had always heard good things about the school so we were happy that they could attend a Catholic school near the home we bought. A few years later, I heard the 3rd grade teacher

(Mrs. Swartz) was retiring. (I had taught with her years before at St. Mary's School.) I immediately updated my resume and applied for the position. Shortly after being interviewed, I was pleased with the news that I had been hired as the new 3rd grade teacher. I felt so blessed and honored! It was indeed, bittersweet leaving St. Mary School after teaching there for sixteen years, but I was very excited to begin teaching at St. Teresa School. I love this school and the past 26 years teaching here have been the most wonderful years of my life!

What do you enjoy most about teaching at St. Teresa School? There are many reasons I enjoy teaching at St. Teresa School:

- Daily Mass and adoration
- Strong sense of family and unity
- Students that are respectful and eager to learn
- Supportive parents
- Holy priests and sisters
- Dedicated teachers and staff
- Daily striving to live St. Therese's Little Way of Love

What is one of your favorite traditions here at St. Teresa School? One of my most favorite traditions is when the girls dress up as St. Therese for Mass when we celebrate her Feast Day! It's so lovely to see all those little "Saint Teresas" processing into the church!



Jr. High Honor Choir: 7th and 8th grade students had the opportunity to sing with other Catholic school students at Pius X High School for a day-long honor choir event. Before the final concert the St. Teresa students performed a song for the rest of the participants.



Above and right: St. Teresa fourth grade students were honored to sing for a recorded Mass for the homebound at John XXIII Diocesan Center celebrated by Bishop Conley.

Top right: Father Schwenka (pictured) and Father Kipper blessed classroom doors and the main school entrance during one of their weekly classroom visits following Epiphany.



JAYHAWK INTRODUCTIONS



**KIMBERLY
WILSON**

SECRETARY

I am a Lincoln native and former teacher here at St. Teresa Catholic School. I left in 2011 to move to the country of Peru where my husband, Roy Macpherson, and I got married and had our first child. We have been blessed to live in different cities and countries with our children, but being close to family as they get older has become a priority. We moved to Lincoln in 2018, just before our third son was born and have since added our first daughter! We are very happy to be a part of this wonderful community and to have the opportunity to raise our children in such a faith-filled environment.



**SADA
WONDERCHECK**

K-2 ART
TEACHER

I grew up in Lincoln and joined St. Teresa's Church in high school when my family moved into the parish. It has been a joy to get to know the parish and school family in better and deeper ways since I moved back two years ago. I have five children (some of whom attend St. Teresa's) and in my "spare time" I enjoy teaching piano lessons, singing in the 10 a.m. choir, and baking. Some of my favorite things about teaching have been getting to know my students, witnessing their growth, and learning from the unique gifts that each staff and faculty member brings to the school.

Top right: The student section dressed in different themes for each volleyball and basketball game to show school spirit

Basketball teams pictured below, from top: 8th grade girls, 8th grade boys, 7th grade girls, 7th grade boys

Bottom right: Junior High science fair



Catholic Schools Week Guest Speakers

One of the highlights of Catholic Schools Week was the guest speakers.

Dr. Patrick Callahan taught the Kindergarten and 2nd grade the Roman names of the days of the week, and their connection to the Greek and Roman gods and the planets. He taught the 7th grade the fascinating history and art of "Carolingian Miniscule."

Mr. Kevin Clark presented to the 1st and 6th grade the topic of beauty, the perseverance it takes to create something of beauty, and shared some beautiful architectural structures for which he's been involved in the planning and design.

Dr. Diane Temme's background in music and the liberal arts brought a rich sharing of the effect of the music we listen to, not only on our moods, but also on our actions to the 8th grade.

Mr. Jim Bertrand brought in a life-sized replica of the shroud and shared many fascinating facts about it to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade.

Thank you to these members of our community for sharing their knowledge and wisdom with our students, to benefit and bear fruit in their lives.

