



Knights News - St. Patrick School

401 East F Street, McCook, NE 69001 ♣ 308-345-4546

<https://www.stpatrickmccook.com/>

December, 2025



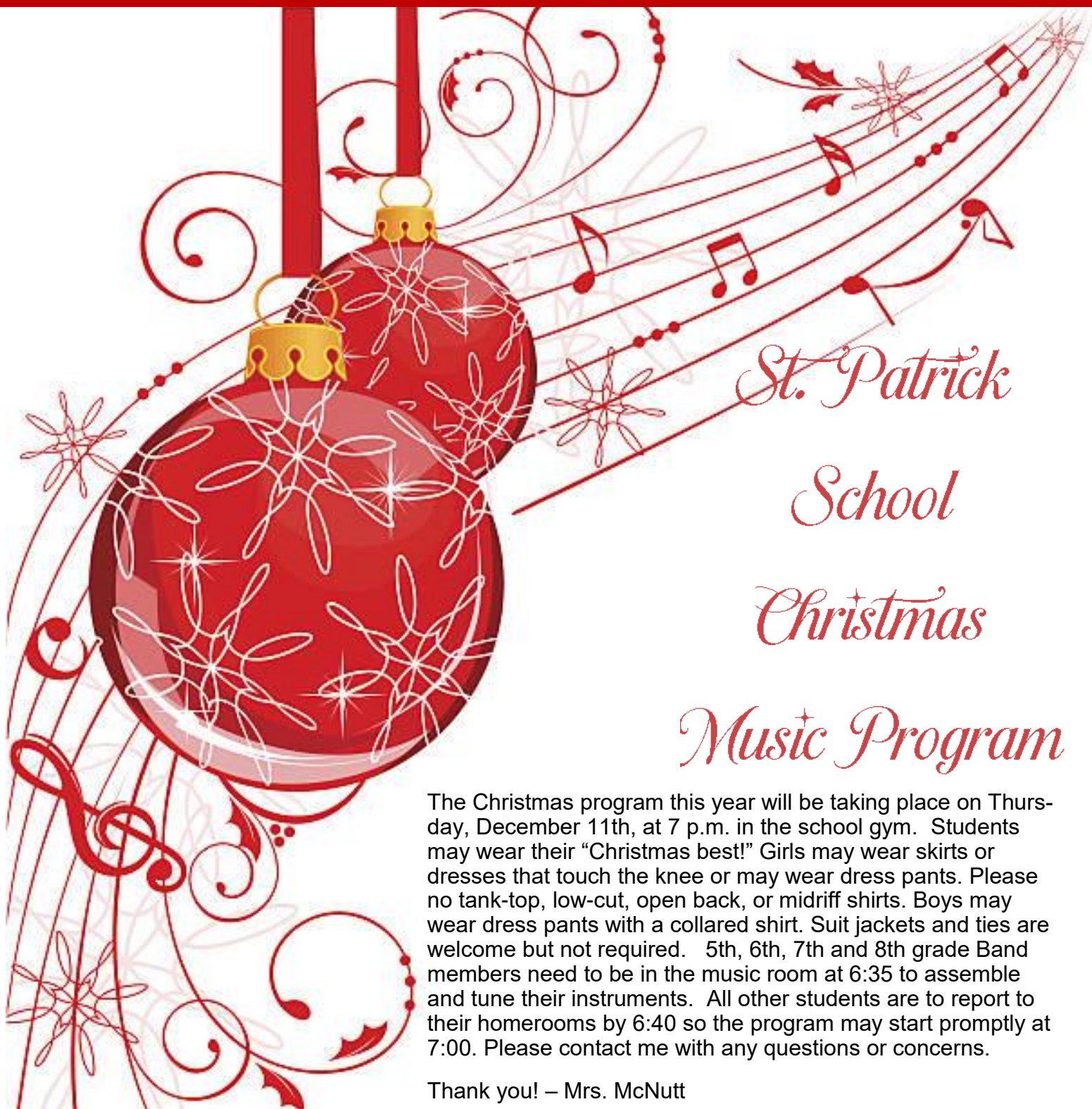
Our Mission Statement: In gratitude for God's goodness to all generations, our mission as St. Patrick Catholic School is to meet the needs of our students, families, and community for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.



## Celebrating Veterans Day

With special guest speakers Ross Halsey, and, shown here, Brigadier General Christopher Spillman

*Please Join Us*



*St. Patrick  
School  
Christmas*

*Music Program*

The Christmas program this year will be taking place on Thursday, December 11th, at 7 p.m. in the school gym. Students may wear their "Christmas best!" Girls may wear skirts or dresses that touch the knee or may wear dress pants. Please no tank-top, low-cut, open back, or midriff shirts. Boys may wear dress pants with a collared shirt. Suit jackets and ties are welcome but not required. 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade Band members need to be in the music room at 6:35 to assemble and tune their instruments. All other students are to report to their homerooms by 6:40 so the program may start promptly at 7:00. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you! – Mrs. McNutt

*Thursday, December 11th, 7:00 p.m.*





Photos of some of the approximately 40 students, staff, and family from St. Patrick School that attended the McCook Community College Lady Indian basketball game to support the student athletes for all their help at the 51st annual Fall Festival.





# Chef Extraordinaire!



Congratulations, St. Patrick School, for winning the soup contest for the Southwest Nebraska Big Give. Father Kimminau's clam chowder was a hit and we are appreciative of the \$100 prize to add to our Big Give total of almost \$24,000 to support the purchase of new text books.

We are looking forward to Big Give 2026!

Ross Halsey, former student at St. Patrick School, remains very active in the school, and is also very dedicated to honoring all of our veterans. He donates the beautiful stools and benches you see surrounding the podium here, where Ross is speaking joined by Mrs. Fritsch, who produced the program.





Looking the part of a Principal, Anthony made the executive decision of his class having a extra recess.

Anthony is handling one of the Principal's duties as he presents the announcements and prayer for the end of the day.

Principal for a Day was one the many auction items available at the 51st Annual Fall Festival.



Anthony did a great job with announcements.

# What's Happening

in



PHYSICAL  
EDUCATION

This month lower grades have been learning to jump rope starting with cradles and single ropes all the way up to jumping in and out with long ropes. Third and fourth learned a fast-paced game called school with the long ropes and learned to jump forward backward and a few learned how to criss cross. In the upper grades kickball remains a favorite. We have been spending a lot of time outside enjoying the weather before it changes, including a walk to the park by the 7th grade students. The eighth-grade girls are excellent at jumping with the long ropes.

Happy Thanksgiving! Mrs. Gerver



# Taking a paws (pause) to read to Patrick



What dog doesn't  
like to just lie  
down and have a  
boy read him a  
story.









For more Veterans Day photos, check out the Website at [St. Patrick Elementary | Parent Information](#) and scroll to the Photo Albums.





We love to honor our veterans!





BOXOFJOY.ORG



## Give Christmas Joy. **See Smiles Like This!**

BOX OF JOY IS A MINISTRY OF CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH

Our school participated in *Box of Joy*; a Christmas gift ministry organized by local Catholic schools, parishes and groups nationwide. By packing Boxes of Joy with toys and other gifts, our parishioners will bless children suffering from extreme poverty by sharing the joy of Christmas and planting seeds of hope through the Gospel. Cross Catholic Outreach serves over 32 countries through this ministry.

Some of our students sewed tote bags for children in other lands with their 4-H group! What a wonderful thing to do for others! Here, Margaret runs the sewing machine.







Left: Charli and Sloan pack Boxes of Joy



Right: Makaylin stitches together a tote bag she will contribute to Box of Joy.

So many children will benefit from your caring efforts.



Above: Rory pins together a tote bag to donate to the Box of Joy, and right: Katelyn presses seams and Lexi sews on bags they are contributing to the wonderful charity, Box of Joy. Great job, ladies!



We are getting ready for



We hope to see you there!





I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving! We all have so much to be thankful for. I'm thankful for my family, friends, and freedoms that I know I sometimes take for granted. I'm thankful that I get to work with super ladies every day. But most of all I am thankful for a loving and merciful God that blesses me in countless ways every day!

Are you ready for the holidays yet!? It's hard to believe we are already to December! I know we all look forward to all the sweets and goodies that come this time of year. But don't forget the wonderful fruits and vegetables that are available in the winter! Apples and cranberries are two that come to mind. The old saying "an apple a day keeps the doctor away", is probably not far from the truth! Apples are a wonderful source of antioxidants, flavonoids and dietary fiber. And they are delicious! There are so many varieties available as well. Cranberries are another great fruit that can be enjoyed in a variety of ways. Dried cranberries make a nutritious snack. Cranberry sauce is a staple at Thanksgiving. They can be used in sauces, baked goods, even drinks. Cranberries are a good source of Vitamin C but also contain Vitamins A and K and calcium and potassium! No wonder they have been called a "super food"!

As we approach the end of 2025 I just want to take a moment to remind everyone to please keep up with their lunch accounts. I try to send a paper statement every 1-2 weeks because it adds up quickly. When I have the time I also try to send email reminders. They usually are sent the day before the paper statements come home with the students. If you find yourself having trouble keeping up, you are encouraged to apply for free or reduced-price meals anytime throughout the school year. Sending a modest amount on a regular basis may also ease the strain on your budget.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to serve your students! We enjoy visiting with them and serving them every day! We would like to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas season! And look forward to the New Year!

Mrs. Slattery





Evelyn, Tabor, Gracelyn, Brooklyn and Christopher



4th grade students read a story about a sidewalk artist, then they each created a sidewalk chalk artpiece of their own choosing. Shown here with their artwork are Grace, Chris, Isabelle, Evelyn and Tabor.









Caroline, Leah and Christopher





OVER **850** PAIR!



## SOCKTOBER UPDATE!

**Thanks to all who contributed!** The Socktober project organized by the 7th grade Stewardship Class was very successful! A huge thanks to Carniceria CB, LLC, Kinship Pointe, McCook Public Library, St. Patrick parishioners, St. Patrick teachers and families for contributing **over 850 pairs of socks!** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Stewardship students are proud of this project and will be donating the socks to the Family Resource Center, CASA, and Catholic Social Services, and the Family Resource Center,

Below, 7th grade students present socks to representatives from some of the organizations listed above.







A panel speaking on Stewardship attended the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Jennifer Hinze from Catholic Social Services, Caitlin Whitehead with CASA, and Miranda Perry (St. Patrick school alum and long time volunteer) were on the panel.

7<sup>th</sup> graders also gifted over 250 socks to Catholic Social Services for families in need as well as 250 to CASA for Foster Children.

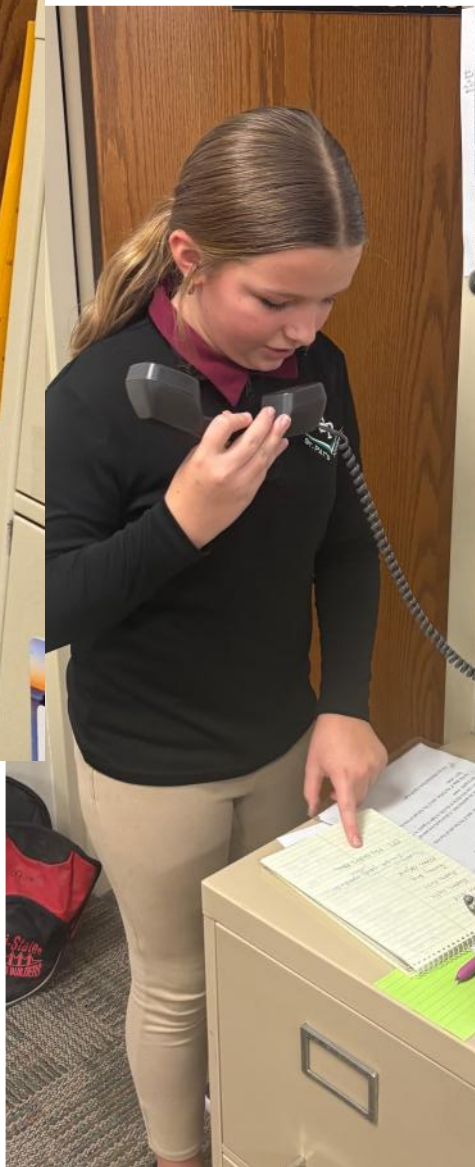




# Saint Patrick Student Council



Student Council Class Representative Celia, left, and Class Representative, Ana, below, giving morning announcements. Great job!





# Happy Saint Nicholas Day



We will celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Friday, December 6th! The students will bring money which St. Nicholas will collect and give to a mission or needy cause. He will leave the students a surprise by their shoes in return.

## Leave Your Shoes Out For St. Nicholas - [catholiccompany.com](http://catholiccompany.com)

One of the old Christian traditions surrounding St. Nicholas's feast day is for kids to leave their shoes out overnight in front of the fireplace, on the windowsill, or outside their bedroom door so that St. Nicholas can fill them with special fruits, candies, and other small gifts and treats.

This tradition grew from the story of when St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra, threw bags of dowry money, either through a window or down a chimney, into the home of an impoverished family to rescue their daughters from being sold into slavery. This was just one of his many acts of good will and charity towards the poor, especially poor children.

Ideas to include in your children's shoes are bags of chocolate candy coins, a small toy, new socks, a tangerine, and small religious items, such as a Catholic saint statue, a Christmas ornament, a rosary, a saint bracelet, and prayer cards. You can also include candy canes which symbolize a shepherd's staff.

Another cute part of this tradition is for kids to leave carrots or hay in their shoes overnight for St. Nicholas's donkey to eat. St. Nicholas takes the hay and carrots for his donkey, and replaces them with small gifts and treats for the children in the morning.

Yes...St. Nicholas was known to ride a donkey laden with gifts for children before he graduated to flying reindeer!

St. Thérèse of Lisieux describes this tradition in her home in France as a small child and recounts how much she loved it. However, for her family this happened not on St. Nicholas's Day but on Christmas Eve (similar to our American tradition of hanging stockings by the fireplace).

*"I knew that when we reached home after Midnight Mass I should find my shoes in the chimney-corner, filled with presents, just as when I was a little child...Papa, too, liked to watch my enjoyment and hear my cries of delight at each fresh surprise that came from the magic shoes, and his pleasure added to mine."* ~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux, *Story of a Soul*

St. Nicholas's feast day traditions vary widely from country to country, but they all carry the same theme of small gifts and treats left in either shoes or stockings.

Continuing this Advent tradition in your own home is a great way to teach your children to venerate the saints and to deepen their knowledge of and love for the Christian faith."





# BE A KNIGHT

Knights are:

- ♦ Brave
- ♦ Self Giving
- ♦ Honorable
- ♦ Faithful
- ♦ Hard Working
- ♦ Fair
- ♦ Respectful
- ♦ Humble



Students donate food during the Pantry Mass for those in need.

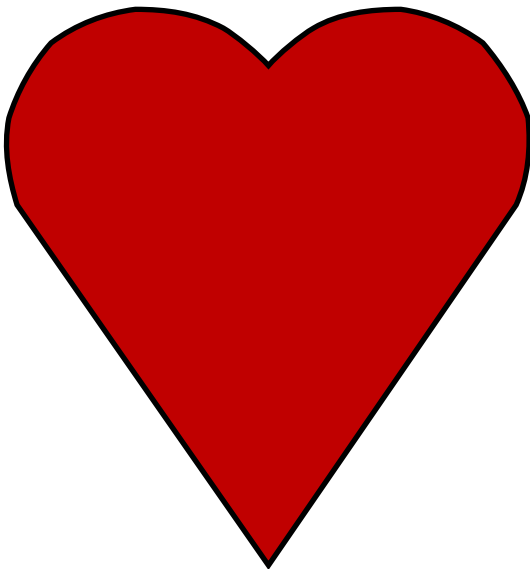








# Pantry Mass











# DECEMBER MENU

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Sweet Potato Puffs Fruit Milk	2 Chicken & Rice Casserole Vegetables Fruit Muffin Milk	3 Spaghetti and Meatballs Vegetable Fruit Garlic Bread Milk	4 Baked Potatoes Ham Broccoli Fruit Milk	5 Omelet Cinnamon Roll Hashbrowns Fruit Juice Milk	6
7	8 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	9 Goulash Vegetable Fruit Roll Milk	10 Deli Sandwich Salad Vegetable Fruit Milk	11 Hot Dog on Bun Pork & Beans Vegetable Fruit Milk	12 Cheese Pizza Salad Baby Carrots Fruit Milk	13
14	15 Sloppy Joe on Bun Beans Vegetables Fruit Milk	16 Chicken Nug- gets Vegetables Fruit Cookie Milk	17 Mandarin Orange Chicken Fried Rice Vegetables Fruit Dinner Roll Milk	18 <b>COOK'S CHOICE</b>	19 PBJ or Tuna Salad Sandwich Salad Baby Carrots Fruit Milk	20
21	22 <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>	23 <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>	24 <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> 	26 <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>	27
28	29 <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>	30 <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>	31 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE!</b>			





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7th grade to Sheldon Traveling Art Show K, 1 & 2 Decorate Community Christmas Tree	2	3	4 Confessions	5 Buddy Mass Christmas Sweater Friday Feast of St. Nicholas Celebration & charity collection	6
7	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception No School	9 Student Council and Patrick to Kinship Pointe	10 2:00 p.m. Dismissal 2:15—Teacher Inservice	11 Christmas Music Program 7:00 p.m	12 Christmas Sweater Friday	13
14	15 Home Basketball game vs. Maywood/Hayes Center 2:00 p.m. Girls games followed by boys games	16	17 Safety/Crisis Team meeting 3:45	18	19 Christmas Sweater/Jeans Day Friday 3rd & 4th grades to Highland Park Christmas Parties 1:00 p.m. Dismissal	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27
Christmas Vacation						
28	29	30	31		Classes Resume January 5th	