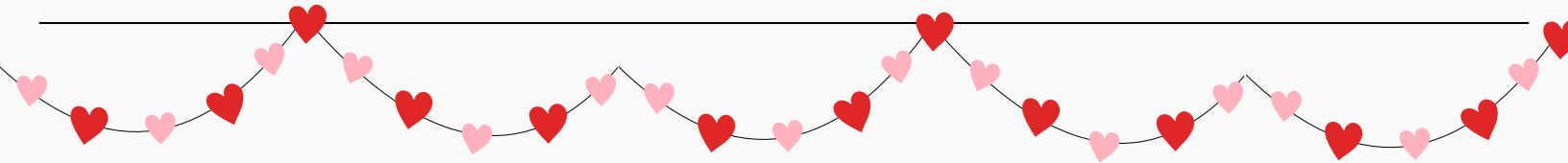


# CCS LINES

FEBRUARY 2025

[CCS WEBSITE](#)



## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear School Community,

I want to invite all of you to attend my presentation on the State of the Schools. You have two opportunities to attend these talks.

Monday Feb. 3rd beginning at 5:30pm | Thursday Feb. 6th at 6:30pm

The presentation will be in the St. Bonaventure Parish Center. I will discuss all of the great things happening in our schools but also look at some of the challenges our schools face in the future. Hope to see you there.

Mr. Ohnoutka

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Niedbalski, Chair  
Sarah S. Pillen, 1st Vice Chair  
Dennis Grennan, 2nd Vice Chair  
Peg Niedbalski  
Jordan Paitz  
Jay Pelan  
Tara Sjuts  
TJ Thiem  
Paige Young

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeff Ohnoutka

### PRINCIPALS

Amy Evans  
Amy Sokol  
Brady Vancura  
Cheryl Zoucha



April 12th,  
2025



## Needed!

### Gala Silent & Grand Auction Packages

More information coming soon!

### Donations & Fundraising:

- **Annual Appeal 2024-25:** In January, we received 10 gifts totaling \$3,824.46. To date, the fund drive has received 567 donations from 548 donors totaling \$234,852.22.
- **2025 Gala:** Tickets & Tables - \$5,750, Sponsorships & Underwriting - \$10,625
- **CCS SEF 17:** In January, we had receipts of \$83,820.42 and total receipts to date are \$759,555.98. Now past due payments now total less than \$8,000.00.
- **Children's Scholarship Fund Campaign:** \$1,500

# SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

## CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AT SCOTUS

Scotus Central Catholic joyfully celebrated Catholic Schools Week with events that deepened faith, built community, and honored the dedication of teachers and staff. The week began on Sunday with students celebrating their parishes by attending Mass and handing out cookies as a token of appreciation to parishioners.

On Monday, teachers enjoyed a retreat in Schuyler, taking time for spiritual reflection and renewal to recharge and refocus for the week ahead.

Tuesday featured a Teachers and Staff Appreciation Breakfast, where the community expressed gratitude for the hard work and commitment of faculty and staff.

On Wednesday, Nebraska volleyball player Rebekah Allick visited to share her inspiring faith journey, reminding students to trust in God's plan for their lives.

Thursday's Eucharistic procession and Mass united the school in worship, and the Gerhold Family Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Angie Rush, Scotus' English and Journalism teacher, in recognition of her dedication.

The week wrapped up on Friday with a vibrant faith rally, including games, a student testimony, a priest talk, praise and worship, adoration, and prayer teams, all designed to strengthen students' connection to God.

Catholic Schools Week at Scotus was an unforgettable celebration of faith, fellowship, and gratitude, highlighting the importance of both academic and spiritual growth.



# SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Catholic Schools Week was a great time to celebrate Catholic education and our students, staff, and families at Scotus. We were able to hear a great message from Rebekah Allick in which she reminded us that pursuing our relationship with the Lord is not always going to be easy, but it will always be worth it. We were able to recognize Mrs. Angie Rusher as the William and Barbara Gerhold Teacher of the Year following our Eucharistic Procession and Mass on Thursday. Mrs. Rusher has made a commitment to challenge her students to pursue excellence in all of their endeavors. Lastly, we capped off our week with an enthusiastic faith rally which included games, praise and worship, and adoration. We want to thank our families for choosing Catholic education and making it a priority



in your family life. Looking forward to February, we will begin to wrap up our winter activities. We have continued to build on the success from the fall season as both basketball teams and wrestling teams have seen tremendous growth from last year. Everyone is a part of this success from the athletes and coaches to our band, cheerleaders, and fans. We are also hosting our band dinner concert on February 10th. This is a great opportunity to hear our wonderful bands, but also to enjoy each other's company. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Parents are needed to donate Gala Silent Auction Baskets!

#### Donations & Fundraising in January:

- **Post Prom Collections:** \$4,495
- **Unrestricted Memorial Gifts:** \$165
- **Cheer Winter Camp:** \$510

#### Gifts to the Endowment Fund:

Contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested to generate long-term income. Annual dividends, typically yielding around 5%, support current needs while preserving the principal, ensuring lasting support for Catholic education and future generations.

- Endowment Scotus – we received a premium payment donation of \$375.00 for a life insurance policy owned by the school and a \$75,000.00 unrestricted donation.
- Endowment Scotus Scholarship – we received a \$2,500.00 addition for the Maguire Scholarship.

Welcome  
February

# SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: ANGIE RUSHER NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Angie Rusher, an English and Journalism teacher at Scotus Central Catholic, was recently honored with the 27th annual William and Barbara Gerhold Family Teacher of the Year award. With an impressive 20 years of service to the school, Angie has made a profound and lasting impact on her students, colleagues, and the entire community. A proud 1995 graduate of Scotus, Angie has remained dedicated to education ever since, eager to pass on the knowledge and values that shaped her own academic journey. After earning her bachelor's degree from Hastings College, she sought to deepen her expertise, earning a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Peru State College and a second master's degree in Catholic School Leadership from Creighton University.

Throughout her two decades at Scotus, Angie has built a reputation as both an exceptional educator and a passionate advocate for her students' success. Her dedication extends beyond the classroom, with her work as a journalism coach standing out. Under her leadership, Scotus has become a dominant force in student journalism, winning 5 state championships, 2 runners-up finishes, and producing 31 individual state champions. Angie's pursuit of excellence and ability to inspire her students was recognized in 2023 when she was named the NSAA Champion of Coaches for Journalism. Her students' success reflects her coaching expertise, mentorship, and commitment to helping them grow as both journalists and individuals.



Angie and her husband, Brett, have long been dedicated supporters of Catholic education, as seen in the education of their three daughters—Janae, Joanna, and Jillian—who have all attended St. Bonaventure and Scotus, continuing the family's tradition of academic excellence. Angie's commitment to the schools and the values they represent has been steadfast, both as a teacher and a parent. The Teacher of the Year award was presented to Angie during a special all-school Mass at St. Bonaventure Church on January 30, 2025, as part of Columbus Catholic Schools' Catholic Schools Week celebration. Along with the award, Angie received a \$1,500 stipend for personal use, recognizing her exceptional contributions to the school and community.

This prestigious award is made possible through the generous funding of the William and Barbara Gerhold Family endowed fund, which supports the Teacher of the Year award and provides annual distributions to Columbus Catholic schools, including the Mathematics, Science, and English departments at Scotus. Angie's recognition reflects her tireless dedication to Catholic education and the many lives she has impacted. We congratulate Angie on this well-deserved honor and thank her for her unwavering commitment to the success of future generations.



# SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb. 1: **BB** vs. Lincoln Lutheran
- Feb. 1: **Speech** @ Omaha
- Feb.1: **Wrestling** vs. Boone Central
- Feb. 4: **BBG** @ Aquinas
- Feb. 7: **Cheer** guy/girl Performance
- Feb. 7: **BB** vs. Bishop Neumann
- Feb. 8: **Robotics** @ Nebraska Christian
- Feb. 8: **Speech** @ Aurora
- Feb. 8: **Wrestling** vs. GICC
- Feb. 8: **BB** @ Kearney Catholic
- Feb. 11: **BBG** vs. Lakeview
- Feb. 15: **Robotics** @ Norfolk
- Feb. 15: **Speech** @ David City
- Feb. 15: **Wrestling** District Tournament @ Malcom
- Feb. 15 **BBB** vs. Lakeview
- Feb. 17, 18, 20: **BBG** District Tournament
- Feb. 20, 21, 22: **Wresting** State Tournament at CHI
- Feb. 21: **Speech** @ Grand Island
- Feb. 21: **BBB** @ Auqinas
- Feb. 22 **Cheer** State Competition @ Grand Island
- Feb. 22: **Robotics** @ Omaha
- Feb. 22: **Speech** @ Grand Island Northwest
- Feb. 24, 25, 27: **BBB** District Tournament

## OTHER NEED TO KNOW INFORMATION:

- Feb. 10: **Band** Dinner Concert
- Feb. 12: **8th** Grade Retreat
- Feb. 14: **NO SCHOOL**
- Feb. 14, 15, 16: **Musical** Performance
- Feb. 19: **All School Mass**
- Feb. 24-28: **Cheer** Tryout Practices
- Feb. 28: **Cheer** Tryouts

# DONATE NOW!

## Children's Scholarship Fund

The mission of CSF is to provide partial- tuition scholarships so children from low-income families can access the private K-8 education of their choice. Drop off donations to the CCS Advancement Office. For every \$1 we donate, we receive \$2 in return for scholarships.



# ST. ANTHONY ELEMENTARY

## CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AT ST. ANTHONY ELEMENTARY

St. Anthony Elementary celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a week full of activities that brought our school community together.

On Monday, students had the day off while teachers attended a retreat at the Benedictine Center in Schuyler. They created a "Guess Who" bulletin board at the school featuring elementary-age pictures of the staff, giving students the chance to guess who was who.

On Tuesday, students wrote heartfelt thank you notes to local businesses that support our school. We were also joined by St. Anthony alumni from Scotus, who shared lunch with the students and read books together.

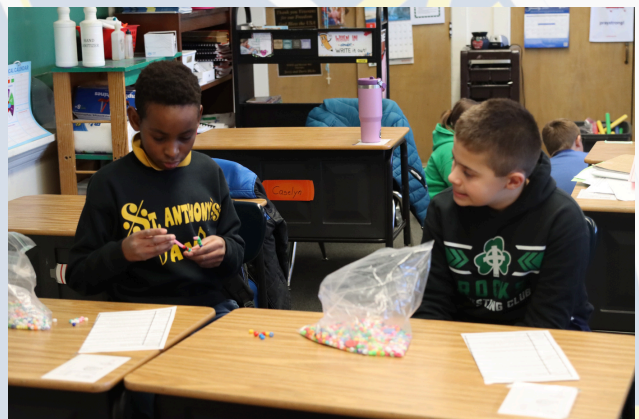
Wednesday was a special day as priests were invited to have lunch with the students, and each class participated in activities to support our seminarian, Caleb Kosch. Grades 2-6 also visited Scotus for Rebekah Allick's conversion story and they ended the day watching clips from The Chosen.

On Thursday, students created colorful table tents for the spaghetti dinner and worked together in school families to complete a puzzle. The day ended with a prayerful Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Friday featured an all-school Mass followed by afternoon activities, including card games, crafts, and more!

Our Catholic Schools Week celebrations culminated on Saturday with the annual spaghetti dinner, which included a split-the-pot raffle, a silent auction, and a performance by the Angel Choir at Mass.

It was a wonderful week of faith, fellowship, and fun.



- **Scrip Gift Card Fundraising**
  - Total Sales: \$432,876.55 (Through January)
  - Total Profit: \$17,356.44 (Through January)
- **January Restaurant Night Profit:**  
Godfather's - \$291.29

# ST. BONAVENTURE ELEMETNARY

## ST. BONAVENTURE ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

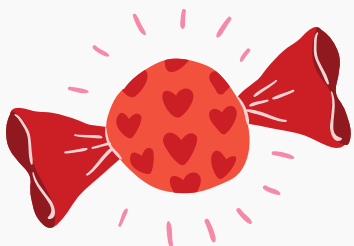
St. Bonaventure Elementary has had an incredible week of celebration and joy during Catholic Schools Week, filled with faith, fun, and a deep sense of community! The week kicked off on Monday with no school for students, as the staff took part in a spiritual retreat in Schuyler, focusing on renewal, reflection, and strengthening their faith.

On Tuesday, our K-3 students had a blast at the movie theater, followed by a vibrant "Crazy for Catholic Schools" dress day, where students wore their most imaginative and wacky outfits to showcase their school pride.

Wednesday was a spirited day filled with team spirit as students from K-12 showed up in their Husker gear or favorite team jerseys for "Husker/Team Spirit Day." The day was made even more meaningful by a visit from Rebekah Allick, a Husker volleyball player, who shared her inspiring journey with her faith and how it has shaped her life both on and off the court. Rebekah's message was a reminder of how faith can guide and strengthen us in every area of our lives.

Thursday brought even more excitement, with parents invited to share a special lunch with their children, fostering a deeper connection between home and school. Meanwhile, our 4th-6th graders had a great time bowling, strengthening friendships and enjoying some friendly competition.

The week culminated on Friday with a beautiful all-school Mass, followed by a reverent Eucharistic procession that allowed everyone to come together in prayer and worship. To conclude the week, our students took time to express their gratitude to their parents by writing thank-you notes and drawing pictures of thanks, honoring them for their support in choosing Catholic education and helping them grow in their faith. It has truly been a memorable week, showcasing the very best of Catholic education, faith, and community, and we are so grateful for all the families, staff, and students who made it possible.



- **Scrip Gift Card Fundraising**
  - Total Sales: \$721,020.00 (Through January)
  - Total Profit: \$27,973.28 (Through January)
- **January Restaurant Night Profit: \$277.16**
- **One unrestricted donation: \$8,453.13**

# ST. ISIDORE ELEMENTARY

## ST. ISIDORE ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

St. Isidore Elementary School had an exciting and meaningful Catholic Schools Week, filled with fun activities and moments to grow in faith and community!

On Monday, students had the day off while our dedicated teachers took part in a retreat with the Evangelium Institute. The retreat offered a time for spiritual renewal, helping teachers deepen their faith while strengthening their professional growth.

Tuesday was a cozy and generous day, with students celebrating Pajama Day and participating in a Faith Service Project. Each grade level brought in donations for their charity bucket, and the winning class got to decide which charity would receive the school's donation and got to enjoy a sweet ice cream float party to celebrate the students' kindness and service!

Wednesday was all about showing patriotic spirit for America Day, as students wore red, white, and blue. K-4 students enjoyed a fun afternoon at the movie theater, while 5th and 6th graders were inspired by Rebekah Allick, a Husker volleyball player, who shared her powerful faith journey and how it has shaped her life and athletic career.

Thursday was a thrilling day with a Wildlife Encounters Assembly, where students learned about animals and their habitats in an interactive way. It was also Favorite Team/Sports Dress Day, with students showing their team spirit by wearing gear from their favorite teams or sports.

On Friday, students had a blast rotating through mini-classes designed for all grade levels, from K-6. Activities included coloring t-shirts, making rosaries, mini-golf, bowling, and more! These fun, interactive classes allowed students to bond with each other, explore their creativity, and enjoy time together.

It was a week full of faith, fun, and fantastic memories! A big thank you to all our students, teachers, and families for making this year's Catholic Schools Week such a success!



### • **Scrip Gift Card Fundraising**

- Total Sales: \$995,287.31 (Through December)
- Total Profit: \$28,340.84 (Through December)

### • **January Restaurant Night Profit: N/A**

