



*St. Francis Xavier Catholic School*  
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[www.saintxrams.org](http://www.saintxrams.org)



*January 14, 2022*

*Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandai, Priest/Superintendent*  
*Shawn Augustine, Principal*

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*Welcome to St. Xavier Catholic School's Newsletter published by the High School Mass Communication Class. The Newsletter will be published several times a year with our purpose to inform you concerning personnel, students, and events at St. Xavier Catholic School.*

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### **Baby Jesus Showered with Gifts**



Saint Xavier continued the long tradition of the Baby Jesus Shower yet again on January 7. The purpose of the Baby Jesus Shower was to celebrate the life of Jesus and celebrate his mother, Mary, by creating a real-life celebration that involved the children and served our community.

Students and their families, along with parish parishioners, brought in gifts for the shower. The Pre-K through 4th grade

students unwrapped the presents. The gifts were donated to the Pregnancy Center in Junction City. This center serves low-income mothers in our community.

This project recognizes the birth of Jesus and the beauty of His story (as well as the importance of Mary and Joseph) and how as Christians, it is part of our belief system to serve others. What a beautiful way to serve--helping mothers with their babies in our own community who need help. –Jakob B.

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## December Honorees at St. Xavier



Congratulations to our December teacher of the month, Ms. Alyssa Hay! Colleagues shared that Ms. Hay is so energetic and really goes out of her way to help all her kiddos. She knows how to make learning fun and exciting and is such a great coworker to talk with! Ms. Hay is a patient and attentive teacher. She is always willing to assist students in and out of the classroom. Ms. Hay is invested in all

students, from the youngest in the building to the seniors, and is involved with coaching cross country and forensics. She is also willing to invest in her fellow coworkers as well and invite them deeper and further in the Catholic faith. Way to go, Ms. Hay!

Congratulations to our December middle school student of the month, 7th grader Ryan Reed! Ryan is friendly and respectful. He always pays attention in class and works to complete all his work. Ryan also is involved in extracurricular activities and consistently works to do his very best. Keep up the good work, Ryan!

Congratulations to our December high school student of the month, sophomore Becky Peterson! Becky is a hard worker. She is also friendly, respectful, and responsible. Becky is a self-starter and gets her work done. She is involved in many activities such as volleyball, scholars bowl, forensics, and FBLA and gives it her all both in and outside the classroom. It has been wonderful watching her continue to grow this school year. Nice Job, Becky! –Mr. Augustine

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## FBLA Members Very Involved



The Future Business Leaders of America are continuing their active year. The 19 members have been participating in the virtual District III Conference. Each member selected 2 areas of interest and choose 2 online

tests to complete. Results will be posted in about a month.

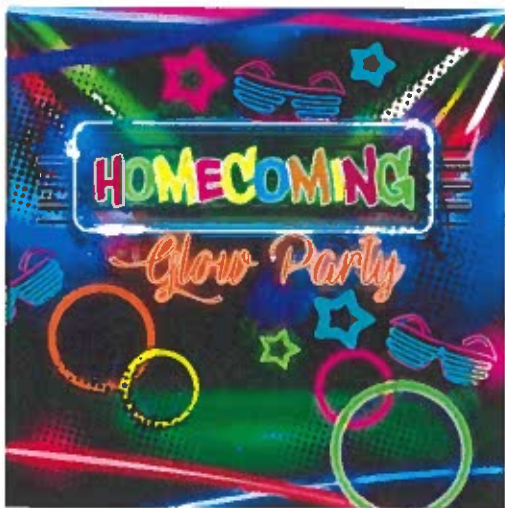
They are continuing their monthly meetings with guest speakers. The January speaker is an area supervisor for the Kansas Wildlife and Parks. The speakers allow students to learn more about different career paths.

In February, they will be observing FBLA Week. One of the activities that week will be a luncheon at a local restaurant.

The members have appreciated the opportunities they have had this year in FBLA. –Mrs. Becker

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## Homecoming Lights up the Night



Homecoming festivities were held throughout the week of December 6. We had fun spirit days that included Pajama Day, Ram Pride Day, Salad Dressing Day, Multiplicity Day, and Sunday Best Day.

The cheerleaders led a pep rally on Thursday of Homecoming Week where the homecoming court was announced. That evening, the middle school and high school basketball teams played. At halftime of the boys' basketball game, the Homecoming King and Queen, Heston Jahnke and Lauryn Peterson,

were crowned.

The final event of Homecoming week was the Homecoming Dance. StuCo sponsored the various events throughout Homecoming Week. – Clarissa O.

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## St. Xavier Completing Accreditation Process

Accreditation by  
**cognia**<sup>™</sup>

St Xavier is completing the accreditation process this school year. We are accredited by both the state of Kansas as well as nationally through Cognia. It is called an accreditation cycle because it helps schools continue

to improve from year to year.

The accreditation process entails focusing on goals of improvement. The goals that our school and the diocese are currently working on are promoting viable Catholic schools, integration of technology, and individual plans of study. We are also focusing on performance standards in the areas of Leadership Capacity, Learning Capacity, and Resource Capacity. We are currently gathering data from

ELEOT teacher, student, and parent evaluations as well as assessment scores and data in other areas of our school. We will create a PowerPoint presentation that includes this information and submit it to the Cognia accreditation team. The team will be visiting us either online or in person March 23-25, 2022, as well as other schools in the Salina Diocese.

Accreditation is important for three reasons. 1. It helps determine if a school meets or exceeds minimum quality standards, 2. It helps families determine acceptable schools for enrollment, and 3. It assists in creating goals for self-improvement.

What does "accredited" mean? Accreditation is the recognition from an agency that an institution maintains a certain level of educational standards. Each accreditation cycle lasts 5 years. –Mr. Augustine and Mrs. Becker

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## Exciting Catholic Schools Week Activities



This year Catholic Schools Week is from January 30 to February 4. It is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The theme is Faith, Excellence, and Service.

January 30 the School leads Mass at 11:00 am. January 31 is Dress as a Vocation or Career. Father Ryan is visiting St. X to discuss vocations. February 1 is Dress up as a Teacher or Staff Member; at the end of the day, there is the Catholic Faith Scholars Bowl. February 2 Mass with Bishop Vincke; PTO is providing food and duty-free lunch for teachers and staff. There will be a Staff Talent Show. It is Dress up as a Saint Day. February 3 we will say the Rosary. It is Jeans and Spirit Day. February 4 is Dress in your Sunday Best. We will be treated to muffins and milk after Mass.

Everyone really enjoys Catholic Schools week! –Jakob B.

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## Lights, Camera, Rams!



This year St. Xavier had the wonderful opportunity to film a promotional video for the school. Everyone participated in the filming and had so much fun.

“The goal of the promotional video was to promote Saint Xavier to the public and to new families in Junction City and Fort Riley to

recruit more students. The filming was done by Metea Gregg, the Communications Director for the Salina Diocese. The filming consisted of many scripted events, such as the pep rally, because we wanted the video to show what to expect when you come to St. X including the events that truly show our Ram Pride. The filming was the “most exciting part as it was a big and very new project; so much of the project was also very daunting,” stated Kristel Jahnke.

The video is now up on the school website for all to enjoy. It turned out amazing! Much appreciation to Metea Gregg who helped us film the video for our school as well as the interviews and the teachers’ flexibility on filming day. The video was a huge success, and we hope it will help bring more students to our wonderful school here at St. X! –Casey S.

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## St. Xavier Celebrating Mardi Gras with a Dance for PreK to Grade 8



A little history on why Catholics celebrate Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras, which is French for Fat Tuesday, is the last opportunity to consume foods containing animal fat before the rigors of Lent’s fasting begins.

In addition to preparing their homes for Lent by eliminating meat and dairy products, Catholics prepare themselves spiritually by ridding themselves of sin by receiving the

sacrament of reconciliation.

The day before Ash Wednesday is called Shrove Tuesday, from the archaic English word shrive, which means hear confession.

The St. Xavier Mardi Gras Dance will be on February 25, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. for PreK – 5th grade, and from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for 6th – 8th grade. PTO is organizing the event for the students. The dress code is Sunday best. The purpose of the event is to have fun and socialize. PTO President Mrs. Berry is looking forward to seeing the little kids dance and all the students having fun!  
–Clarissa O.



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## Junior Cheerleaders Perform During BBQ & Basketball Night!

As we enter the second half of the school year, one of our annual activities we as a school like to celebrate is the Barbeque, Basketball and Cheer Clinic Performance Night. This year was no exception.

The Cheer Clinic is “An event where the high school cheer team teaches Pre-K-8th students about cheerleading and is a fundraiser for the cheer team; it is also a fun event for the kids,” stated Jaime Richling. The clinic was held on January 8.

The BBQ’s purpose is to have families come out and enjoy a basketball game with a good meal and to have an amazing time. The event was held on Thursday, January 13, starting at 4:30 pm. There was an outstanding performance by the cheerleaders and the students who participated in the clinic. Some great basketball games followed.

Everyone enjoyed the smoked meats provided by none other than the Meat Master and Cooking King, Mr. Becker! This was the fourth year St. X has held this event. It was a fun evening for all who came out to support our Rams and enjoy being with family and friends. –Casey S.

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## St. Xavier Catholic School’s Photo Gallery



Cheerleaders practice a stunt.



2<sup>nd</sup> graders singing Christmas carols and serving treats to the teachers.



High schoolers having fun at lunch.



Knights of Columbus members enjoying lunch with the students.



Middle school basketball boys team member playing hard.



Saint X is visited by Farley, a service dog from the USO.



Band members playing at the Saint Xavier Christmas Concert.



Students making gingerbread houses.



Ms. Moeller getting Pep Band ready for a basketball game.



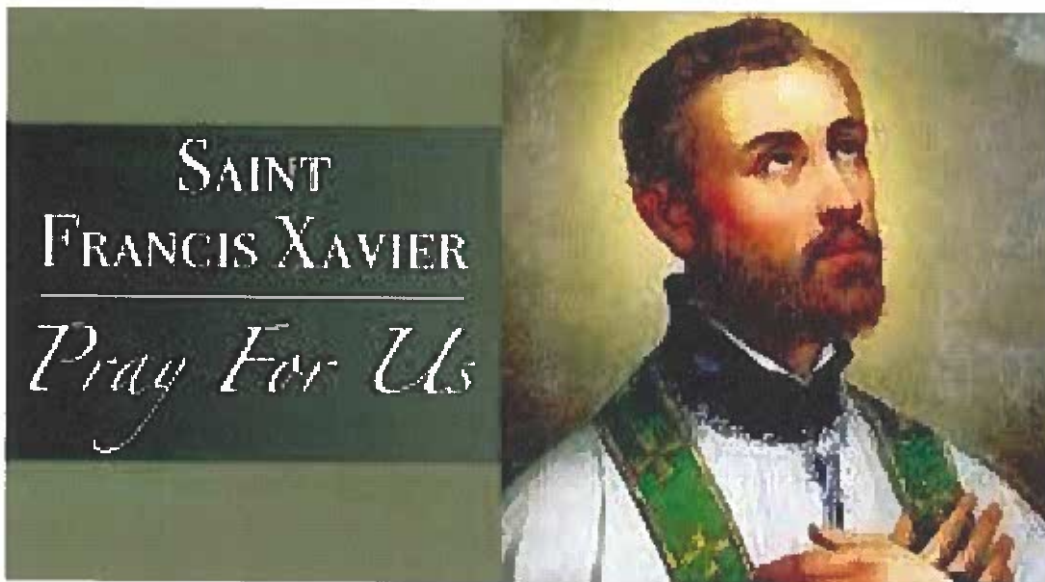
Lauryn P. and Heston J., Homecoming Queen and King!



High school students enjoying the Homecoming Dance.



Heston J. kneeling in Church before confession.



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Deadline: **Mar 31**

# TreeRing

# February 2022

# Religious Theme: The Holy Family

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> *Catholic Schools Week *Champions Car Wash Fundraiser	<b>2</b> *Catholic Schools Week *1:30pm- School Mass with Bishop Vincke	<b>3</b> *Catholic Schools Week *7:45am- 7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Staff Meeting *8:30am- StuCo Meeting *12:30pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice *4:00pm- HS Scholars Bowl Regionals @ St. John's *NEKPL MS Boys Basketball Tournament	<b>4</b> *Catholic Schools Week *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass & Adoration *12:30pm- HS Scholars Bowl Practice *NEKPL MS Boys Basketball Tournament	<b>5</b> 7:30am- Forensics @ Rossville *9:00am- K of C District Free Throw contest *NEKPL MS Boys Basketball Tournament
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> *Lunch with Parishioners	<b>9</b> *3:45pm- Activities Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> *8:20am- Class Meetings	<b>11</b> *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass	<b>12</b> *7:30am- Forensics @ Rock Creek *8:00am- Confirmation Retreat
<b>13</b> *FBLA Week	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> *8:20am- Art Club Meeting	<b>18</b> *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> *No School *Professional Development	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> *3:45pm- PTO Meeting	<b>24</b> *8:20am- FBLA Meeting *5:00pm- Recruitment Meeting *5:30pm- School Council Meeting	<b>25</b> *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass *Mardi Gras Dance 6:00pm- PreK-5th 7:30pm- 6th-8th	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>					