



St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
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March 4, 2026

Father Peter O'Donnell, Pastor
Father Vincent John, CMI, Associate Pastor
Father Kade Megaffin, Associate Pastor
Shawn Augustine, Principal

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. Francis Xavier Catholic School.

8th Grade Shadowing Day



For the first time ever, Saint Francis Xavier School will be having an 8th Grade Shadowing Day on March 11th.

This activity will give any 8th grade student who does not attend our school an opportunity to attend our school for the day and shadow our current 8th graders to see if they would like to come here next school year. They also get a chance to explore the school while shadowing them.

Mr. Augustine said that he “wants the individuals who are shadowing to feel welcomed, comfortable, and be a part of this family where they can be successful.”

Mrs. Jahnke said that she hopes individuals will “love coming here for the day and see all the amazing things this school has to offer.”

Currently we have some students from Manhattan Catholic School planning to visit us, so let's hope we have more soon. –Lathan N.

March FBLA Trip



On March 26th, St. Xavier's FBLA trip will be going to the Geary County Sheriff's Office!

This was made possible through the work of Dan Zoeller, Corrections Major for the Geary County Sheriff's Office and alumnus of St. Xavier--but also me--having requested an FBLA trip to the Sheriff's Office.

FBLA will be able to see the offices as well as tools the sheriff's office employs. Some of those tools include tasers, restraint chairs, shock shells, pepper balls, and more. Most of all though, FBLA could meet one of the Sheriff Office's own K9s!

With such an itinerary, it is clear to see the knowledge and experience one might gain from going on this FBLA trip--specifically, to see the work of a service as important as our county's law enforcement. I have already toured the Sheriff's Office and can say that if it won't intrigue someone into a career in law enforcement, it will definitely pique your interest.

It is a great opportunity for FBLA and shows a continuing relation of the law enforcement of Junction City and Geary County with the St. Francis Xavier School as might be seen in things such as High Five Fridays. –Janis C.

Catholic Pilates–Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday of Lent in the St. Francis Xavier Church from 2:55-3:20 pm.

What is Stations of the Cross? “The Stations of the Cross (or *Via Crucis*) is a 14-step devotion commemorating Jesus Christ's last day, typically prayed during Lent and Good Friday to meditate on his Passion. Participants move between stations reflecting on events from his condemnation to his burial.” –Dynamic Catholic

Students and parents are welcome to join us in remembrance and prayer as we follow Jesus Christ's death and crucifixion. Be ready to kneel! –Madison D.

What is The Divine Mercy Chaplet?

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a great Catholic prayer. This prayer is for mercy, trust, and atonement.



St. Francis Xavier School will be participating in the reading of this prayer on April 10th from 3:05 pm to 3:25 pm.

The purpose of this prayer is to reflect on the mercy of God. We will be going to the Church and praying.

One of our religion teachers, Mrs. Weigel--who is very excited about this activity--said, "On Friday before Divine Mercy Sunday, we will gather to say the prayer to reflect on the Mercy of God." –Kennedi H.

A Successful Two Weeks—Lent is Nearly Halfway Done!



Keep your crosses on, Rams! The first two weeks of Lent are done, and four weeks are left to go. Stay strong during this time of fasting and remember it's important to stay faithful!

Starting on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and going to Holy Thursday (April 2), lasting for six weeks total, Lent is a solemn season of preparation. In Lent, we are preparing for the resurrection of Jesus in Easter.

We also mirror how Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, using this time as self-examination and returning ourselves to God.

Well done on the first two weeks of Lent; now let's stay strong, going all the way to Easter! When times get rough, remember that Jesus also went through incredible hardships, and use him as an example to carry your own cross. Good luck, Rams! –Scott W.

Retro Rewind 2026—Prom Theme



It is prom season! Plans are being made for the 2026 St. Francis Xavier Prom.

The prom dance and festivities will be held on March 28th at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Decorations and refreshments will be centered around the retro theme.

High school students are highly encouraged to dress in a retro style to have lots of fun and be on theme.

Begin planning now for a great time. See you there! –Dana D.

A Homecoming Recap--Fit for a King and Queen



February 2–7 was St. Xavier’s annual Homecoming Week. This week was filled with festivities such as dress up days, pep rallies, scrimmages, and more. Here’s a quick recap of everything that happened here at St. X during Homecoming Week 2026.

During the week, we had several dress up days. Monday was Blackout Day, Tuesday was Character Day, Wednesday was Pajama Day, Thursday was Mismatch Day, and Friday was Sunday Best Day. The students made sure to show up and show out for these dress up days, and they gave us some great outfits and costumes.

The Homecoming Pep Rally was a blast. From the cheer team’s energetic performances to the band’s lively tunes, the gym was absolutely rocking with energy. Winter sports and activities such as Scholars Bowl, FBLA, Forensics, and our Fine Arts were all brought out and introduced as well. Our high school students played some team games such as a Starburst Stack and a Penny Hose race to bring some Homecoming spirit. The pep rally was finished off by the appearance of everyone’s favorite bipedal mammal, Rowdy!



The largest events of this awesome week were the Homecoming Scrimmage and the Homecoming Dance. Students, staff, parents, and alumni were invited to show up to play a friendly game of basketball. Both the Saint Xavier Blue and Saint Xavier White teams played hard, and the game was a blast. Family, friends, and graduates gathered in the Municipal Gym for an awesome evening of hoops, hot dogs, and highlights.

During halftime, we had an electric performance from our Middle and High School Cheer Clinic and the crowning of our Homecoming King and Queen. The

winners were (drumroll please...), Seniors Charles Quinton and Taylor Szimandel-Saporito! Congratulations to you both! The dance was a great time as well. There were snacks, drinks, music, and good times. The perfect recipe for a great night.

Overall, Homecoming 2026 was an amazing experience for everyone involved, and we're already looking forward to 2027! –Charles Q.

Judge Courtney Craven Inspires FBLA with Real World Courtroom Insights



Judge Courtney Craven visited St. X to talk to FBLA about what it is like to be a judge. She went to the University of Kansas for her bachelor's degree and then attended Washburn for law school.

Her goal as a district court judge is for people to feel like they were heard in court even if they didn't win the case.

She thinks that more people should know about how long things take in the court system and that being on time matters. It was a pleasure to learn more about the judicial system. –Taylor S.

Tis the Season for HS and MS Track & Field



Middle school and high school track & field starts March 9, coached by Mrs. Fields and Mrs. Saucedo. High school has their first meet on April 2 at Mission Valley. For middle school, their first meet will also be on April 2 at Tescott.

Athletes will compete in different areas of track and field events, including the long jump, the 100m dash, the 200m dash, the mile, shotput, and discus.

Some strengths that Coach Fields and Coach Saucedo believe they will see in their athletes are their excitement and eagerness to compete, which will push them to work hard. The expectations for this year's team are for athletes to do their best, reach goals, build self-esteem, and have a great season together, hopefully bringing home some medals with them.

The importance of track is to give students the opportunity to better themselves, and to increase their self-esteem. Track & field teaches students that effort pays off, while they're building strength and character. –Nick F.

Outstanding Rams—February



Congratulations to our February staff member of the month Ms. Girardot! Ms. Girardot is a wonderful choice for our February Staff Member of the Month. As our school cafeteria manager, Ms. Girardot goes above and beyond to ensure that our students receive nutritious meals thoughtfully prepared with their interests in mind. She offers an impressive variety of foods and provides students with meaningful choices, making lunchtime something they genuinely look forward to each day. The cafeteria is always welcoming, well decorated, and the kitchen is consistently maintained with

the highest standards of cleanliness and organization. Ms. Girardot shows exceptional kindness by personally delivering trays to our seated Pre-K four-year-olds, ensuring they feel supported and cared for. She is flexible, consistently timely, and greets students and staff with a friendly smile, making her a valued and appreciated member of our school community. Excellent work, Ms. Girardot!

Congratulations to our February middle school student of the month, 8th grader, David G. David consistently shows respect to everyone around him and carries himself with a kind, positive demeanor. He is quick to greet others with a smile, always saying hello and asking how they are doing. What stands out most about David is his willingness to help. He actively looks for ways to serve others and steps in without being asked. When he works with younger students, he does a great job of talking nicely and meeting them at their level. His thoughtful attitude and everyday kindness make a meaningful difference in our school community. Way to go, David!

Congratulations to our February high school student of the month, Senior Lathan N. Lathan is always willing to step up and help whenever and wherever he is needed. Recently he helped out in preschool when staff was sick. Lathan did so well with the kids by helping them and talking to them. He also stops to listen to other younger students in the hallway and doesn't make it seem like an inconvenience. We will miss him next year. Nice job, Lathan! –Mr. Augustine

Salina Diocese Motto for this School Year: "Together let us be disciples of Jesus on Mission."

St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery--Memories



Seniors dissecting oranges to get their zest on.



Mrs. Breidenstein and Cassiel P. at Ash Wednesday Mass.



King Charles.



The St. Xavier High School Scholars Bowl Team at the Kansas 1A Division II State Championship—6th place!!



The Pre-Kers are ready for Mardi Gras!



Future U.S. Army Second Lieutenant, Janis C., at State Scholars Bowl.



Anatomy class has an interesting lab.



Brothers in Christ.



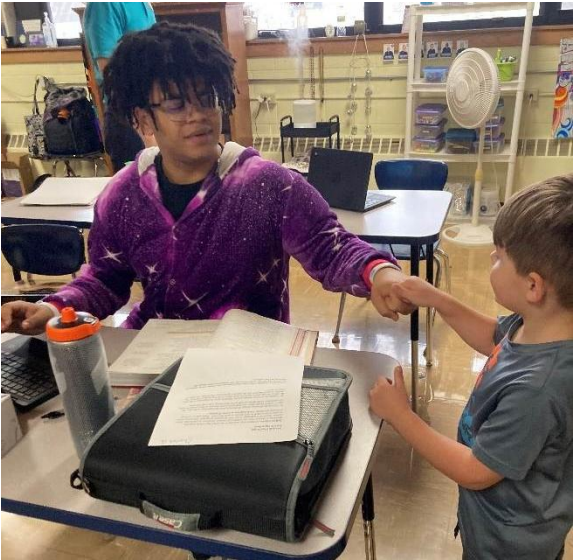
Great presentation on Mars and Jupiter.



Charles W. having a great day.



A librarian's work is never done.



Fist bumps with a unicorn.



Sleeping Beauties.



Hh, it's a mummy! Wait, it is just Janis C.



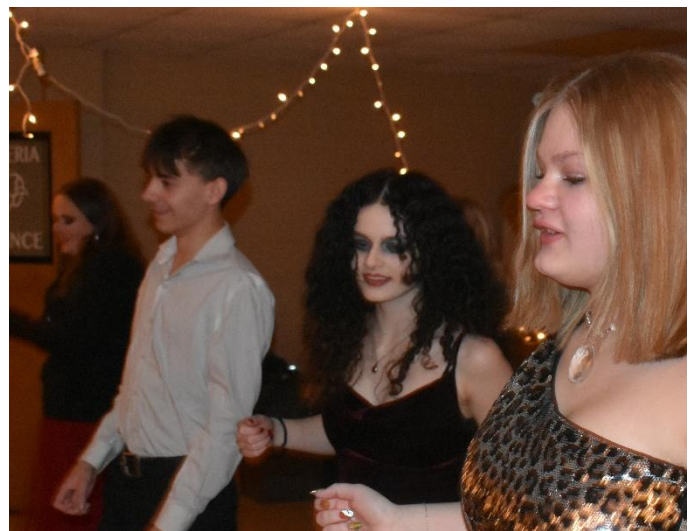
Who could it be???



Stacking it up at the pep rally!



Homecoming Queen Taylor. S, arrives at the banquet/dance (and Madison. D).



Bogeying on the dance floor. at the Homecoming Dance.



Silly smiles from the senior girls.



Mya B. and Irelyne S. collecting their medals at a forensics tournament. Good job!



Let's play a game—PreK loves learning.



Artists in the making.



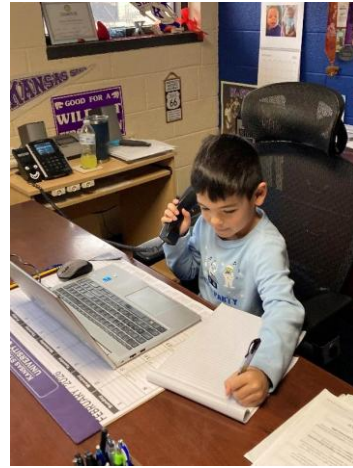
Thank you to the BRAVE volunteer for allowing the St. X students to hear his heartbeat! (90% mortality rate).



Blockage on the tracks!



Following in the steps of Christ.



Started from the bottom; now we're here!



Grandparent gets ready to meet his Grandkids at St. X!



Being a principal is important work.



Plunger-Man.



Can I get a hand?



Madison D. takes homecoming back to 2016!



Choo Choo Train!



Drum Solo!



Look at all the bookmarks—
shadowing the librarian!



Looks like they're playing hard!!



LET'S GO SAINT X!!!



Teacher in training.



FBLA Week--Lots of FUN careers!

**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY THROUGH
FAITH & REASON**

March 2026



Religious Theme:
Blessed Sacrament

Important Dates:

Feb 16- Mar 6: Baby Bottle Campaign

March 6: End of 3rd Quarter/Modified Schedule

Mar 8: Daylight Saving Time Begins

Mar 11: 8th Grade Shadow Day

Mar 12-13: Parent/Teacher Conferences

Mar 13: No School

Mar 16-20: Spring Break

Mar 23: 2026-2027 Enrollment Begins

Mar 27: Modified Schedule

Birthdays:

3-Nate Meseke (Custodian)

3-Alana Thopmson (Social Studies)

4-Thomas Dewberry (K)

5-Emilia Weigel (4th)

7-Lathan Ngiraidong (12th)

9-Mylah Hughes (PK3)

12-Carol Tomson (Finance)

12-Dana Davis (11th)

12-Brianna Velez-Rodriguez (PK 4)

15-Scarlett Deacon (10th)

22-Father Kade

28-Yelitza Mukes Pulido (K)

30-Malachi Busch (4th)

30-Susanne Remily (3rd Teacher)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 10:00am- Dorothy Bramlage Library Visits PreK 4:00pm- MS Scholars Bowl @ Home 6:00pm- Preschool & Kindergarten Roundup	3 9:00am- 1 st -4 th Grade Trip to Great Plains Theater 9:15am- 8 th Grade Trip to Lebold Museum in Abilene 3:30pm- Children's Choir Practice	4 12:25pm- Junior Optimist Club Meeting	5 <u>Spring Individual Pictures-Out of Uniform</u> 8:20am- StuCo Meeting 12:25pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice 3:10pm- Ice Cream Thursday	6 <u>End of 3rd Quarter Modified Schedule</u> 7:50am- Rosary Club 8:30am- Mass 12:25pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice 2:55pm- Stations of the Cross	7 Flumpet Day @ K-State
8  Daylight Savings Time Begins 11:00am- Children's Mass Choir	9 <u>MS & HS Track Practice Begins</u> 4:00pm- MS Scholars Bowl @ Emporia Christian; Leave time: 2:15pm	10 <u>Papa John's Pizza Fundraiser</u> 4:00pm- MS Scholars Bowl @ St. John's; Leave time: 2:15pm 4:00pm- Auction Meeting 5:00pm- PTO Pizza Dinner 5:15pm- Track Parent Meeting 6:30pm- K-4 th Instrumental Program	11 <u>8th Grade Shadow Day</u> 8:30am- Mass 3:30pm- Chess Club 3:45pm- Activities Meeting	12 8:20am- Class Meetings 8:30am- K-6 Student of the Qtr. and 3rd-6th Honor Roll 12:25pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice 1:45pm- 1 st -6 th Grade AR Party 4:00pm- Parent/Teacher Conferences	13 <u>No School</u> Parent/Teacher Conferences	14 Forensics @ Clay Center Leave time: 6:30am
15	16	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21
No School - Spring Break						
22	23 <u>26-27 Enrollment Begins</u> <u>State Assessments Begin</u> <u>Track, Cheer, Choir, & Band Pictures</u> 8:20am- FBLA Forensics Lab Presentation	24 3:30pm- Children's Choir Practice	25 8:30am- School Rosary 3:30pm- Chess Club 5:30pm- PTO Meeting	26 <u>Classroom Group Pictures</u> 8:20am- FBLA Trip to the Sheriff's Office 12:25pm- MS Scholars Bowl Practice 4:00pm- Auction Meeting 5:30pm- School Council	27 <u>Modified Schedule</u> <u>Forensics Tournament @ Washington</u> 8:30am- Mass w/ Bishop Vincke 9:15am- Lenten Penance Service 2:55pm- Stations of the Cross	28 7:00pm- HS Prom
29	30 8:50am- 8 th Grade Field Trip to Ward-Meade in Topeka	31	1	2	3 	4