



January



Family Folder – Wednesday, January 14, 2026

From Father Reither:

Last Sunday with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church has entered once again in the “Ordinary Time” of the Liturgical Year. Yesterday at our School Mass, I reminded the kids that the color green is the symbol of growth and so even during the ordinary times of our lives we are to be growing in our Faith toward Jesus. This is a never ending process, true for students, teachers, priests, and parents. May we continue to use this time of the Church year to grow closer to Jesus!

Tonight: There will be an open meeting this evening (Wed. 14th 6:30pm) in the school gym for me to discuss/listen to your thoughts and opinions on the future direction of our school. Specifically surrounding the question of becoming an officially accredited institution. Please consider attending if you are able.

God bless,

Fr. Reither

All School Mass: To kick off Catholic Schools Week our students are invited to participate in an All School Mass on Sunday, January 25th. Our students will read and sing!

Save your pennies!: Our service project for Catholic Schools Week will be a Penny War to raise money for Project Heifer, an international company which uses donations to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable community development. Heifer distributes animals, along with agricultural and values-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. Read the flyer enclosed for more information and a story about how this affects not only individuals, but whole communities.

Everybody Has a Story (Author's Chair writing): The students will once again be showcasing their writing talents during Author's Chair on **Friday, January 30th**. This year we have decided to focus on writing a travel book with information about a chosen country. Each grade level will have different requirements but they will all end up with a written and illustrated travel book by the end of the school year, excerpts which will be presented during Author's Chair. Mark the date on your calendar to come and listen and stay for lunch. An invitation was sent home last week, please fill it out and return to the office. There is an early dismissal after lunch, buses will not be running, so please make plans to pick up your child if you are unable to come.

Open House at St. Charles: Please join us after Mass on Sunday, **February 1**, from 10:30-12:30, to view the classrooms, see what we've been doing, grab a brochure, and pass the word along to anyone who might want to register with us.

2026-2027 School Year: Enrollment is open for St. Charles 3K-6th grade for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are interested, OR if you know of families that may be interested, please have them call the office (608) 689-2642 for an application. You may also call or email Fr. Reither (608-689-2646; treither@diolclergy.org), OR Mrs. Hytry (608-689-2642; phytry@stcharlesgenoa.org). There are flyers in the office if you would like to give them to others that may be interested.

PTO Update (Jessie Cina):

Review full meeting minutes sent last week.

- School accreditation meeting is tonight - please attend if you are able.
- Spread the word on Sip & Paint is Friday Jan 30th (snacks & apps - list to sign up coming next week). Only 40 slots for kids and adults.
- Catholic schools week Jan 28th trip...St. Rose in am and waiting to hear back from jump park for the afternoon. More details to come ASAP.
- Save the date for Spring Carnival (April 24-26)!

YEARBOOKS - please pay for and pick them up from the office ASAP.

Inclement Weather Reminder: We will follow De Soto's announcement for any school closings. You can always check the news channels for closures or wait for an email from Mrs. Hytry. If school has to close early for any reason we will notify you through email and follow your emergency pick-up plan that you filled out in your school packet.

De Soto Area Schools Message Alert Information: Jackie Kreuzer at De Soto Area Schools would like the St. Charles families to send an email to her at jkreuzer@desoto.k12.wi.us with the name and number that you would like to use for messages for inclement and/or other school closures. Jackie will input them manually to make certain they get in the system. Please let her know if you are NOT receiving the messages.

The Second-Hand Shack (Ellen Michuta/Marianna Vosika): The Second-Hand Shack is located in the log cabin building at the intersection of South Avenue and 13th Street. The PTO benefits through your purchases, volunteer hours, and donations. Due to space limitations, please contact Sarah (608-615-1005) for donation times, acceptance, and exclusions.

Scrip (Megan Olson): . Earn money back for St. Charles Parish by purchasing gift cards. You can purchase cards on the RaiseRight app. A flyer and instructions are attached. Questions contact: mjtrussoni@gmail.com or 608-385-7815.

Hunger Knows No Season: Please join us in collecting for the local food pantry every Tuesday. This is sponsored by the Middle School Student Council. The food items will support the St. Matthew's Food Pantry.

St Charles Facebook Page: Like" the St Charles Facebook Page for updates and events occurring at school.

Enclosures:

- Project Heifer International
- Penny War Information
- Report From the Field
- Sip & Paint

Dates to Remember:

January 16: Adoration at 2:30
January 19: No school, In-service for the teachers
January 23: End of Second Quarter, report cards go home the 28th.
January 28: Bible Bowl at Aquinas, 6:00 pm
January 25-31: Catholic Schools Week, stay tuned for details
January 30: Author's Chair reading at 10:30, community lunch to follow, early dismissal, no bus service, Sip-n-paint at 6:00-9:00 (change of schedule)

Birthdays:

January 17: William Mitchell
January 17: Hazel Trussoni
January 26: Thomas Mitchell
January 27: Tobias Vanevenhoven
January 30: Isabella Trussoni

PENNY WAR!

- **When?** Monday, January 26th, to Friday, January 30th.
- **Where?** St. Charles School
- **Why?** Money will go towards Project Heifer, purchasing the gift of a farm animal, Clean water, tree seedlings, or milk for a needy international family.
- **How?** Save your pennies! Earn more pennies! Put the pennies in the jar for your team, these will be added to your total. Put silver coins in the jars for the other teams, these will be subtracted!

(Please limit any paper money to one per jar to avoid overwhelming your opponent)

Project Heifer International

Dear Parents:

Our service project for Catholic Schools Week 2026 will be a Penny War to raise money for Project Heifer International. This non-profit company works to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable community development. Our pennies will help buy a farm animal, clean water, seeds, bees, or send a girl to school for a family in another country. Along with this gift will come individual training and education to see this gift to its fullest potential.

The list on the back shows the cost of the gifts available through Project Heifer. If you would like more information please don't hesitate to call me. You can also read more about this organization at www.heifer.org or call 877-243-4337.

Thank you,

Patti Hytry

phytry@stcharlesgenoa.org

608-689-2642



GIFT ORDER FORM

GIFT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Help a Mother Feed Her Children		\$25,000	\$
The Gift Ark		\$5,000	\$
Community Solar Kit		\$5,000	\$
Honeybee Farm		\$2,500	\$
Joy to the World Gift Basket		\$1,500	\$
Share of Joy to the World Gift Basket		\$150	\$
Biogas Stoves for a Village		\$1,000	\$
A Biogas Stove		\$50	\$
Mating Pair of Cattle		\$1,000	\$
Milk Menagerie		\$1,000	\$
Share of Milk Menagerie		\$100	\$
Water for Life		\$750	\$
Heifer		\$500	\$
Share of a Heifer		\$50	\$
Gift of Clean Water		\$300	\$
Send a Girl to School		\$275	\$
Family Solar Kit		\$250	\$
Water Buffalo		\$250	\$
Share of a Water Buffalo		\$25	\$
Goat		\$120	\$
Share of a Goat		\$10	\$
Sheep		\$120	\$
Share of a Sheep		\$10	\$
Pig		\$120	\$
Share of a Pig		\$10	\$
Garden Seeds		\$60	\$
Share of Garden Seeds		\$10	\$
Hope Basket		\$50	\$
Honeybees		\$30	\$
Flock of Chicks		\$20	\$
Food Basket		\$20	\$
Friends of Heifer®		\$10/mo	\$
Where Most Needed			\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED			\$

Fill in the amounts of your gifts on the form and insert into envelope provided.



HONOR CARDS

Please send me

Honor Cards directly so I can send them to friends and family.

☐ Please check this box if you do not want Heifer International to share your contact information.



REPORT FROM THE FIELD

January 2026



Thanks to your support, Sev's chickens and egg business are thriving — and her family is, too!

Chicks Change Lives in Cambodia — Thanks to You

Growing up in rural Cambodia was very hard for Sev. There was little for her to eat, and she couldn't attend school. She got married young and desperately wanted to give her own children a better life. So, Sev and her husband did everything they could to earn an income and provide for their family in a way their own families couldn't for them.

Sev tried raising chickens but didn't know how to properly care for them. She remembers how "two hundred chickens died in only three days." Sev was also unsuccessful in raising ducks. Deep in debt to provide for her family, she sold a cow they owned while her husband traveled far away for construction work.

Things seemed hopeless until Sev received the gift of chicks — all thanks to you.

You see, the gift of chicks, along with training in how to properly care for them, can transform *everything* for

hardworking families. A flourishing flock provides vitamin-rich eggs to feed hungry children every day — they can lay more than 200 eggs each year! That means there are plenty of eggs leftover that can be sold for income.

Through Heifer trainings, Sev learned to divide her chickens by age to help them grow, how to improve their feeding and how to vaccinate the birds to keep them healthy. Sev and her husband received even more support when they joined their local Heifer cooperative, which taught them how to build their egg-selling business and increase profits.

"As long as I live, I will make sure I send her to school as much as I can."

— Sev

Sev and her husband now have a flock of almost 1,000 chickens! Her husband doesn't need to leave home to make money — he can stay home and watch his children grow up. He and Sev can also afford meat and other nutritious food critical to their children's health and wellbeing.

What means the most to Sev is being able to send their youngest daughter, Sopheak, to school. "As long as I live, I will make sure I send her to school as much as I can," Sev declares. Sopheak dreams of being a teacher. Thanks to your generosity, the sky is the limit for Sev, Sopheak and their entire family.

To help more mothers like Sev with the gift of chicks, visit Heifer.org/GiveNow.



Your support means that Sev's children no longer go hungry and can get the education they deserve!

You're Powering Collective Success in Guatemala

Cacao has been a traditional Mayan food source for centuries. It's used to create chocolate, cocoa powder and cocoa butter. Recently, there's been increased demand for premium Guatemalan chocolate. That's why Heifer partnered with the ADIRA Collective, a group formed to support cacao farmers and producers, while fostering community development.

Thanks to your generosity, women like Marta — along with 926 ADIRA members — now grow successful cacao crops and produce chocolate bars to sell for reliable income!

From extensive field training to maximize and diversify their crops, to education on cacao processing, business management and planning,

Marta and other ADIRA members are soaring to new heights.

"Before Heifer's intervention, we only worked with the cocoa chain. Now we also work with other spice chains such as cardamom, cinnamon, allspice, black pepper and curcuma," Marta explains. This means cooperative members earn even more income to support their families long into the future.

But your impact doesn't stop there! Members are empowered to become ADIRA teachers or promoters to carry forward the organization's commitment to the community. As the collective grows, young people in Marta's community can work within ADIRA, instead of migrating out of

Guatemala for work — a win-win for everyone.

"Before Heifer's intervention, we only worked with the cocoa chain. Now we also work with other spice chains such as cardamom, cinnamon, allspice, black pepper and curcuma."

— Marta

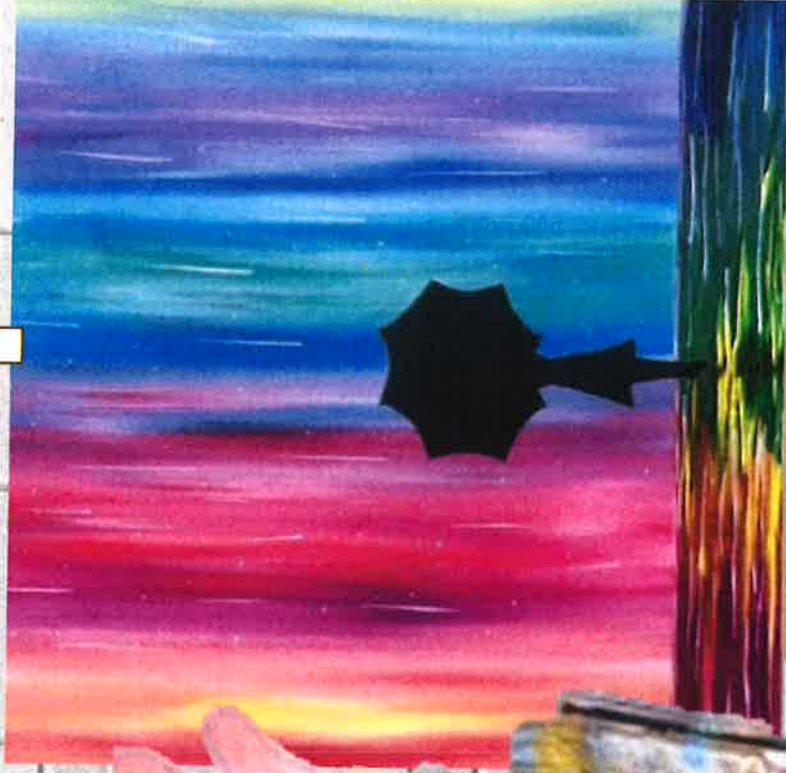
Marta stresses, "ADIRA is a testament to what is possible when communities come together and receive the right support ... Heifer did help us a lot."

To read more about your impact in Guatemala, visit Heifer.org/GiveNow.



Thanks to your support, women like Marta are learning to be leaders in their communities, creating ripple effects of change for generations to come!

Sip &



\$30 Kids \$40 Adults

Paint

Friday, January 30

**St. Charles School
Fundraiser**

**Reveal The Colors Hidden
Within You!**

Time: 6:00– 9:00 PM

**Snacks Provided
Drinks Available**

**Reserve Your Spot Today
Call/Text (608) 780-1148
Created & Taught By:
Kelly Hutchison**

