

Nativity Catholic School: Ministries of Each Grade

As an extension of our religious instruction at Nativity Catholic School, students are invited to minister to others and therefore to live the faith they have learned in their religion classes. It is our hope that in the course of their years at Nativity, the children will develop an ongoing personal commitment to some of these ministries based on their experiences of stewardship here at school.

There are many ways we minister as an entire school community such as food drives, toy drives, Operation Rice Bowl, collections for victims of natural disasters, outreach to the homebound, and gift boxes for the children of La Victoria.


In addition, each grade level has adopted its own ministry:

Our Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old students collect new and used brown grocery bags to be used for the Food Pantry distribution. The children also decorate the bags from time to time to send some cheer. They also pray for those who use our Food Pantry in their daily intentions.

Kindergarten students run a Lenten Shoe Collection for St. Vincent De Paul Society. They collect new or nearly new shoes of all sizes. They also collect shoe polish and shoelaces to freshen up donated used shoes before bringing them to the Society. The Kindergarten has already collected more than 300 pairs of shoes for the needy!

First Grade students minister to the homeless in our community. With the help of eighth grade prayer partners they make sandwiches to be delivered to those in need. They collect needed toiletries which can also be delivered to the homeless.

Second Grade students organize and run a school wide Lemonade Stand to collect money to help fund Autism research. Several students and teachers in the school have relatives affected by autism and this project was suggested by a former student whose brother has autism. The Lemonade Stand has raised as much as \$1503 in a year for this cause!



Third Grade students have chosen a ministry of Evangelization. They spread God's love through cheerful thoughts. They make Valentine cards with their own spiritual messages to send to an area nursing home. They also make cards for a military troop in Iraq. The students make other cards throughout the year to send to various places – children in hospitals, other nursing homes, etc. – wherever there is a need.

Fourth Grade students will be holding seasonal collections of items that the Everyday Blessings Center is in need of such as: back to school supplies, baby items, socks, etc. We will pray for and make little gifts/cards for the children at Everyday Blessings around various holidays.

Fifth Grade students have chosen the ministry of spreading devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Students will make rosaries to give as gifts to various groups such as the homebound, those in hospitals, and soldiers far away from home. The very first rosaries we make will be for our second grade prayer partners.

Sixth Grade students will minister to the migrant community in our area, and in particular to the children of migrant families. In the past, depending on the need of the community we have collected clothes, baby items and school supplies.

Seventh Grade students have chosen to be involved in the *Respect for Life* ministry. They work with the Brandon Care Pregnancy Center and help women who have decided to keep their baby. Students plan a “baby shower” and bring in items to donate to the Center to help support these women.

Eighth Grade ministers with their first grade Prayer Partners in a shared care for the homeless. As an Easter project they collect donations of shampoo, soap, combs, socks, toothpaste etc. to fill gift bags. Eighth graders also take turns making sandwiches to be distributed to the homeless.