

Teach us to give and not count the cost.

~St. Ignatius de Loyola~

My name is Margo VanDenBossche and I am so glad to be part of St. Peter's School. It is going to be a year full of learning, challenges, and new experiences. It is my privilege to watch students make connections with learning new skills; overcome their fears of material, and to become blossoming scholars. This is a huge transitional year for students as their work and responsibilities grow.

I am a graduate of the University of Evansville and I also served in the U.S. Army. When not in the classroom, I may be lining up to run a 5k, 10k, or half marathon somewhere across the country. I may also be spending time with family. This is my fourteenth year teaching and the eighth at St. Peter's School. It is a blessing and my vocation to be a catholic school teacher.



A few of my favorite things

Favorite color: purple

Favorite season: fall

Favorite food: pasta

Favorite fast food: Chick Fil A

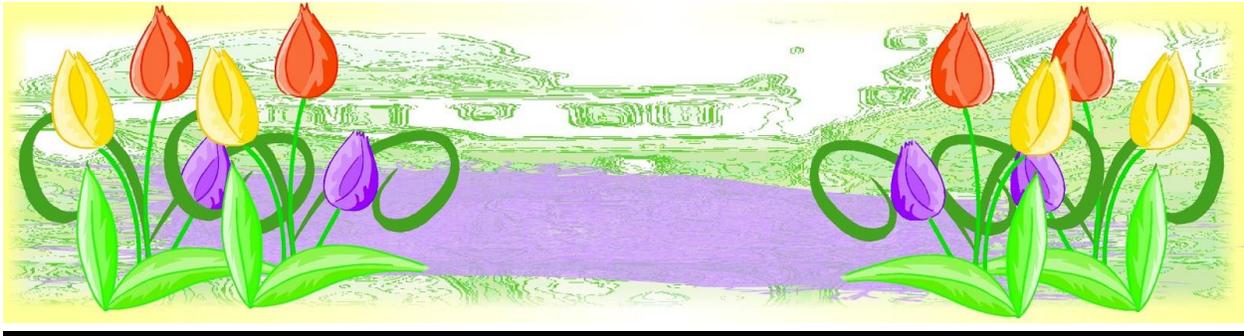
Favorite drink: Dunkin Donuts coffee

Favorite sport: football

Favorite team: Minnesota Vikings

Favorite animal: Eeyore

Favorite book: The Stand



Spring

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me, Christ at my right, Christ at my left, Christ in lying down, Christ in sitting, Christ in rising up, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks to me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

~ St. Patrick of Ireland ~

The dark days of winter are behind us. More daylight and warmer temperatures invite us outside. We see the first buds of spring, the greening of trees, and we begin to plan our gardens. Our world renews itself. Lent may have been that way for us - a time to strip away the old and prepare anew for Christ. May we find ourselves continuing to enjoy all the blessings the Lord has in store for our good.

3rd Grade Religion

The third graders have been learning about the Mass parts and what each part means. Being part of and participating in the Mass is an important part of what we should be doing as Catholics. We have also been talking about ways the Church celebrates the Sacraments and what that means for our daily lives.

3rd Grade Math

The third graders have mastered all of their multiplication facts! I am so proud of their hard work and amazed at their continued enthusiasm for the challenge. Thank you for all of your help at home!

4th Grade Religion

We have been discussing how the commandments influence how we live our daily lives as disciples. We are called to live holy lives and following these commandments as well as Jesus' example are easy roadmaps to follow. This age group has many questions about how to live as disciples and I enjoy the discussions we have about our faith.

4th Grade Math

We are building on the skills from third grade and learning to multiply and divide larger numbers, change fractions into decimals, and solving multiple step problems. I love the looks on their faces when the students realize they have mastered a skill they originally believed would be too hard.

5th Grade Religion

We have almost finished our deeper look into the sacraments. We will finish up the year discussing how we love and serve with Jesus as our example.

5th Grade Math

We will be using what we have learned in fractions and move into decimals. These skills will show up early in the 6th grade and I hope the rising students will be up for the challenge.



Winter

*It is better to be the child of
God than king of the whole world.*

~St. Aloysius Gonzaga ~

Winter has made itself felt. While the varying seasons are themselves a gift, I have already heard students longing for the warmth and renewal of spring. May we find time in this winter season to kindle the fires of faith and family.

3rd grade Religion

During the winter months, we will be learning about the Seven Sacraments and the celebration of the Eucharist. We will also spend some time delving into Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection during the Lenten Season. We will also revisit the Sacrament of Reconciliation before we dismiss for the Easter Break.

3rd grade Math

Multiplication will finally appear in our math book. We will be using what we have learned about multiplication to find area, perfect squares, and square roots. We will also begin memorizing division facts.

4th grade Religion

We will be returning to our study of the commandments. We will be discussing how to love and respect our friends and family members. Also, we will be finding ways to promote respect for life and the rights of all people. This might be a good time to look at how we as families pass on our faith in our homes. Every Christian family is called to be the domestic Church, are we doing our best to reflect Jesus in our families?

4th grade Math

We will be working with multiplication and division of two - and three - digit numbers. Mastering these skills will be important to being successful in the upcoming years.

5th grade Religion

Students will be learning how the Sacraments of Healing restore our relationship with God. We will look at ways Jesus healed people and how the Church continues the healing ministry. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before we leave for Easter Break.

5th grade Math

We will be learning how to compare, add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. Having students assist in the kitchen when using a recipe can help them to understand how fractions are used in our daily lives.





Fall

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort me and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

~St. Patrick~

Change and challenges have taken place in the Intermediate Team. Multiple teachers and high expectations make the new school year a challenge. It is hard to believe how quickly time will fly. Students ask very interesting questions in the quest to know the world around them. They are paying attention even when we don't realize it. The world is opening up for them and is always amazing to watch.

I am excited to welcome Mrs. Holm, Middle School Math/Homeroom, as a part of the team. She will be working with me to enrich and remediate students during math classes. This will give her an inside view of the students that will be coming to the middle school.

3rd grade Religion

After learning about the early church, the third graders will be learning that the pope and bishops lead one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church. We will also be talking about different types of prayers. This is a great time to set aside some time for family prayer. Such a wealth of prayers exists, how about choosing a new one and learning as a family to pray together!

3rd grade Math

Be on the lookout for the beginning of multiplication facts as a part of homework. If you have access to any of the old Schoolhouse Rocks videos for multiplication, please share them with your children. While they seem dated and funny, they are a good tool to help students learn some of the number patterns. I still hear "Three is a Magic Number" whenever we are skip counting by 3! There are lots of fun apps and songs that students will enjoy and learn at the same time.

4th grade Religion

We will be learning how the Commandments help us love God. This is an in-depth look at the first three commandments. We will finish up with seasonal chapters covering Advent and Christmas. This is a great time to share family holiday traditions.

4th grade Math

Since I taught intermediate math last year and know the students' strengths, we are able to build on all of the skills learned last year. We will be reviewing multiplication and division before moving onto more complex operations. If you are cooking for special occasions, have your child read the recipe or help measure ingredients. These experiences will help them relate math to everyday life.

5th grade Religion

The Sacraments are the major focus of our year. We will be looking closely at The Sacraments of Christian Initiation for the next several weeks. What do you remember from your Confirmation or First Communion? Do they impact your life today?

5th grade Math

In preparation for Middle School, the 5th graders have moved into a new math series. Progress in Mathematics will give the students a firm foundation to build on in preparation for 6th grade.