

20  
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ANNUAL  
REPORT

GRADES  
K – 8





# WELCOME MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



## Dear Community of St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School,

The 2019-2020 school year will always be remembered as the "corona" year. Along with the rest of the world, St. Clare has suffered dramatically from the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, in the midst of such a challenge, I am grateful to the Lord for the great response from our school community, from our students, parents, teachers and staff.

I have been very impressed witnessing how, in these difficult circumstances, teachers have implemented online teaching in less than a week. The students have answered, with great participation, in the new methodology. Furthermore, parents have been supporting their children in the learning process. I firmly believe that this challenge has been really productive, not only for continuing our excellence in academics, but also as an excellent example of our community coming together in service to others.

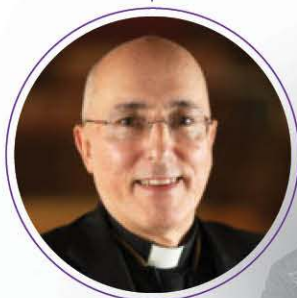
C.S. Lewis, one of the most prolific Christian writers of the 20th century (and author of the beloved Chronicles of Narnia series), once said, "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind," and I sincerely believe that this is true for Saint Clare Catholic School. The best to achieve is yet to come.

We are blessed with an excellent teaching staff and a very capable principal, Sister Mary Elisha Gladys. Parental involvement is an essential part of everything that happens at our school. Over the decades, generations of families continue to choose St. Clare. I hope you will continue this great tradition of faith and quality education!

Thank you to our donors and volunteers for standing with us during this difficult time by demonstrating your commitment to our mission and Catholic education! As we move forward let us stay true to our mission. As St. Catherine of Siena told us, "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" With great hope and blessings for the future.

Your brother in the Lord,

Rev. Jose Maria Quera



## MISSION

At Saint Clare of Assisi Catholic School, we live, spread, and celebrate the gospel values of respect, reverence, and responsibility in a Catholic environment. We embrace a challenging, safe, and nurturing environment that enriches the heart, mind, and soul for life.

## VISION

To form disciples intellectually, spiritually, physically, and socially so that they may hear God's call in their life and have the needed abilities and skills to respond to that call in service to God and community.



# WELCOME MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



## Dear Families & Friends of St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School,

Each year the Lord gives our school community unique blessings and unique challenges. These experiences have the potential to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to grow closer to one another as we pursue our mission of Catholic education. This year, that opportunity for growing in faith in God and love of our neighbor came in particularly pointed way during the coronavirus pandemic.

This year's annual report focuses on the response of our school community during the period of distance learning due to Covid-19. Our story is one of our community coming together, guided by the Lord, to ensure that we continued to provide for the education of the whole person even while not together. It is the story of each member of our school community giving their all to make this possible. It is the story of finding the blessings of the Lord amidst challenge.

I am grateful for the countless hours our school teachers, administrators, parents, and students gave to make distance learning possible for our students as well as making possible the learning that occurred prior to this transition. I am also grateful for the volunteers and benefactors of our school community that gave of their resources to support the continuation of our program. Finally, I look forward to the blessings the Lord will give our community in the year ahead.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Sr. Mary Elisha Glady, RSM*

Sr. Mary Elisha Glady, RSM

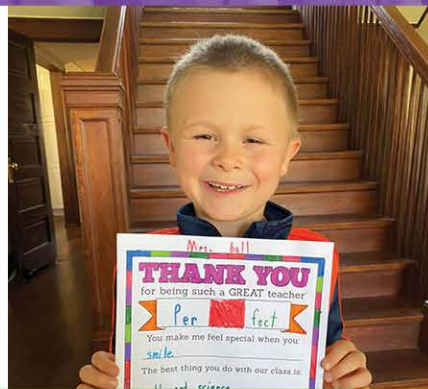
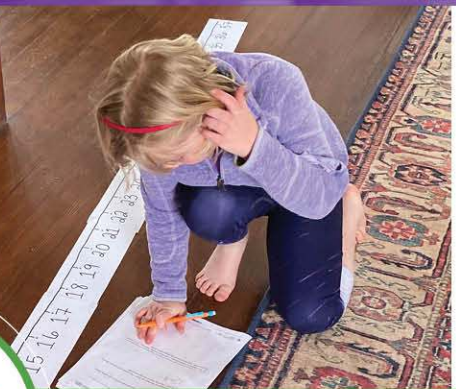
## QUICK FACTS

- **Enrollment** on October 1, 2019: 125 students
- End-of-Year Enrollment: 128 students, the highest since the 2015-2016 school year
- We **retained 94.4% of our students** from June 2019 to August 2019.
- **98% of our student body is Catholic**
- By ethnicity, our student body is 53% Latino, 45% Anglo, and 2% Other Ethnicities
- 63% of teachers and administrators **hold a master's degree or higher**
- This year, for the first time in several years, we had an Assistant Principal, who focused primarily on areas related to Curriculum and Instruction.
- **We follow the curriculum of the Archdiocese of Denver and are accredited** through the Advanced North Central Association





# OUR DISTANCE LEARNING STORY



**Learning at St. Clare suddenly changed in March** with the heightened number of cases of Covid-19 leading to continuing our educational program through distance learning.

We were on spring break the week after the announcement was made that we would be going to distance learning at least until the beginning of April. During this week, **the teachers were heroic going from never having used Google Classroom to launching and using their own Google Classroom.**

**From the beginning, we established a structure that carried us through until the end of the school year.** All students had at least one video call each day. They also knew which subjects they would have to work on at home even if they did not have a video call for the class. As the weeks progressed, we made adjustments to this schedule to be responsive to student needs.

Our responsiveness included **adjusting our grading structure.** Students in grades 6-8 continued to have letter grades to hold them accountable for high standards. For students in grades K-5, we adjusted the grading scale to give parents feedback while also aiming to reduce stress. Their grading scale consisted of checks, check plusses, and check minuses.

**Everyone—parents, students, teachers, and staff—gave their all so that learning could continue for our students.** Thank you, St. Clare community!

## QUICK FACTS

- All teachers used the **Google Classroom** platform
- All students had **a video call with a teacher at least once each day**
- **100% of students had access to a computer** during distance learning; students were given the option of borrowing a school computer
- **100% of students had access to Internet**, thanks in part to generous donors
- Students engaged in synchronous (at the same time as the teacher) and asynchronous (at a time different than the teacher) learning
- Teachers held regular **office hours**
- Members of **school administration called and emailed families** of students that missed video calls or turning in homework to help them overcome challenges and make these possible

**“My children’s teachers have been amazing at posting assignments, which has made it easy to mark the assignments off when complete and to make sure that we are staying on top of their school work.”**

**- 1st & 2nd Grade Parent**



## TIMELINE OF ST. CLARE DISTANCE LEARNING

### MARCH 13:

St. Clare announces distance learning for the next three weeks, following Eagle County School District

### MARCH 16-20:

St. Clare Spring Break; teachers prepare for distance learning

### MARCH 18:

Governor Polis suspends in-person learning in the state of Colorado from March 23 to April 17

### MARCH 23:

Distribution of student belongings in the afternoon

### MARCH 24:

Teacher professional development day to prepare for distance learning; students orient themselves to the Google Classroom format

### MARCH 25:

Day 1 of our distance learning schedule

### APRIL 2:

In-school learning is suspended through the end of April

### APRIL 20:

In-school learning is suspended through the end of the academic year

### MAY 3:

Communication on the altered grading structure for 4th quarter

### MAY 4-8:

Virtual Teacher Appreciation Week; students send teachers notes

### MAY 29:

Last academic day for students

### MAY 29:

8th grade Continuation and drive-thru Clap Out

### JUNE 1:

Virtual Field Day in the morning; students returned school items in the afternoon

### JUNE 2:

Virtual Celebration Day with Awards Ceremony



# EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD FROM A DISTANCE

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DURING DISTANCE LEARNING

### ACADEMIC FORMATION

- Teachers structured **age-appropriate learning activities**, ranging from sending home packets to online work to book work to interviewing family members
- Teachers engaged students in **hands-on activities** at home to practice skills, like baking cookies and conducting science experiments
- Students who struggled to access content online had the opportunity for **summer school** in small groups

### FAITH FORMATION

- 7th grade led the school in a **virtual Stations of the Cross** on Holy Thursday
- 2nd Grade students received the sacrament of **First Reconciliation** at school at the end of May
- 3rd Grade students had their **First Holy Communion and Confirmation** postponed until August

### PHYSICAL FORMATION

- **PE classes** continued with posted workout videos
- Teachers of core classes occasionally assigned work with a physical component, such as walking around the perimeter of your place of residence
- **Virtual Field Day:** This St. Clare tradition continued with students completing a BINGO card with physical fitness activities that are performed when the activity was chosen; prizes were given to the winners

### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL FORMATION

- **Homeroom calls** to give students an opportunity to interact socially with each other
- Teachers held **office hours** for students to ask questions
- **Celebrations of milestones** were modified to allow students to still experience these celebrations; most notable were Kindergarten graduation and 8th grade Continuation with a drive through clap-out



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“I was impressed with **how well and seamless the transition to distance learning went** — it was remarkable and successful in a short period of time.” - **5th Grade Parent**

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“St. Clare’s whole approach was **kid-centric**; I am so grateful. Once we began distance learning, if there was a problem there was a solution. We helped each other out.

**This is what makes a community.”**

**- 6th Grade Parent**

“Distance learning had many **silver linings for my family**. It helped me understand more about how school works and what my children are learning. I slowed down from my work and was able to be with my kids and learn with them. The routine and structure of the schedule really helped my family. We moms also were a great support to each other during this time”

**- 2nd & 4th Grade Parent**

## SPOTLIGHT ON: AT-HOME AERODYNAMICS CAMP

As the end of the academic year neared, it became apparent that the last months of the school year would not be the only disruption our students would be experiencing due to Covid-19. News of the cancellation of summer camps, vacations, and other fun summer happenings spoke to the additional interruptions they would encounter in their lives. Summer camps and experiences are an important opportunity for children to develop social, emotional, and practical skills. More than ever, they seemed needed during the summer of 2020 to help address the growing concern about the mental health of our youth during the time of stay-at-home orders.

To address the need for students to have a fun summer opportunity while being aware of public health regulations, St. Clare partnered with Dr. David Lohmann to host an At-Home Aerodynamics Camp for our students in 5th-8th grade. Interested students were provided with model rocket and airplane kits to assemble. Pointers for helping their aircraft stay in the air longer were shared to aid them as they assembled their aircraft at home. Then, on Saturdays throughout May, June and July there were launch dates on the St. Clare football field to put their airplanes and rockets in action. Records were kept of the time each student’s plane or rocket stayed in the air. Students had the option of trying to improve their design between launch dates to increase the length of time their aircraft stayed in the air. The winning airplane stayed in the air for 65 seconds and the winning rocket stayed in the air for 135 seconds.

Great job, students!





# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS



At St. Clare, we educate the whole person. We start from the beliefs that all people are created in God's image and likeness and that God has a plan for each person. These beliefs shape our whole approach to education. Knowing how beloved each child is, the St. Clare teaching community is dedicated to honoring each student's God-given dignity and equipping each child in our school with the skills and knowledge they need to live God's plan for their life. This approach allows our students to succeed academically and flourish as individuals.

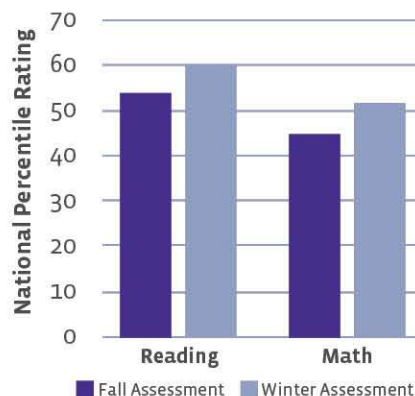
## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

St. Clare students normally take the Renaissance STAR Math and Reading assessments three times each year as a measure of their growth in these subjects. **While it is important to remember STAR scores do not measure the entirety of our program, they do give us some indication of students' literacy and numeracy skills.**

During the 2019-2020 academic year, students were only able to take the assessments in school for the fall and winter testing windows; the spring testing window was not able to be conducted in the standardized environment of school due to distance learning. Our Spring 2019 STAR data also shows our academic excellence. In the spring of 2019, St. Clare students were on par with Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools scores. **In comparison to Eagle County School District, St. Clare 3rd-8th grade students scored 13% higher in reading and 8% higher in math.** St. Clare students' mid-year scores continue to show our school's ability to grow students academically, as illustrated in the graph.



2019-2020 Student Growth on STAR Math and Reading: Fall to Winter







## EXPANDING OUR SERVICES FOR ALL STUDENTS

For many years, St. Clare has had an established reading specialist program for students primarily in grades K-4 to receive additional reading instruction to ensure all of our students have the foundational literacy skills they need to be successful in school and life. We recognize that all students grow at different rates and sometimes additional support is needed to help each student reach their full potential. This year we expanded our services to support and challenge students: those in need of additional instruction and those in need of more challenge. We did this in three primary ways.

### 1. Expanding our intervention services:

St. Clare applied for and received additional Title I-IV funds through Eagle County School District. These funds allowed us to add reading and math intervention for students in the middle school grades without any impact on our bottom line.

### 2. Piloting students taking a higher math class:

Our middle school math department has traditionally differentiated our 8th grade math offering into pre-algebra and algebra to meet the student's needs. In 6th and 7th grade we start to see a growing difference in the ability level of the students and their readiness for more advanced content. So, to challenge our advanced math students in 6th and 7th grade, we partnered with Freedom Learning Charter School and allowed our students to take more advanced math classes and move at their own pace through the content. The students participating appreciated the opportunity to move through the content at their own pace and seek greater challenges. We look forward to expanding this offering to more students and in more subjects in the future.

### 3. Establishing a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) record keeping system:

This allows us to track how students are growing and take a data-driven approach to intervention. It does both academic and behavioral.

## ACADEMIC FEATURE STORY: ARGUMENT DRIVEN INQUIRY LABS

Middle School Science teacher Sr. Mary Hanah Doak implemented **Argument Driven Inquiry (ADI) labs** into the middle school science classrooms. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science hosted a professional development on ADI labs, which she attended for her training. **These labs give students the opportunity to be scientists and read, write, and speak the language of science.** Students followed the scientific process from start to finish: asking a question, formulating a hypothesis, designing an experiment, performing the experiment, collecting and analyzing data, writing a lab report, presenting findings, and peer reviewing other students' work.





# IN-PERSON LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

## FIELD TRIPS, FAMILY FUN, SPORTS & MORE

Prior to distance learning, our students and families enjoyed a wide variety of experiential learning opportunities in our four areas of forming the whole person. A sample of these enrichment and community activities included:

- 3rd Grade Field Trip to McCoy Fossil Beds
- 5th Grade Field Trip to the State Capitol
- Catholic Schools Week: Saint Presentations, Door Contest
- Christmas Pageant
- Canopic Jars: Art and Social Studies Integration
- Community Celebrations
- Family Math Night
- Lenten Fish Fry

## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Our 7th grade boys basketball team won the Peaks League Championship
- Our 8th grade boys basketball team placed 2nd in the Peaks League
- In the fall, our boys also enjoyed playing football and the girls enjoyed playing volleyball





# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

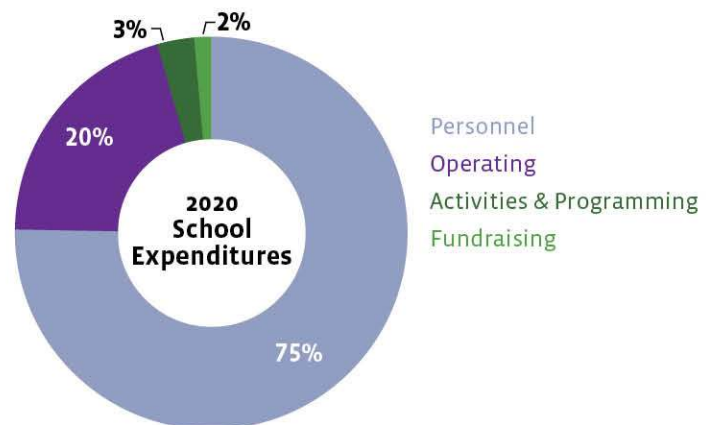
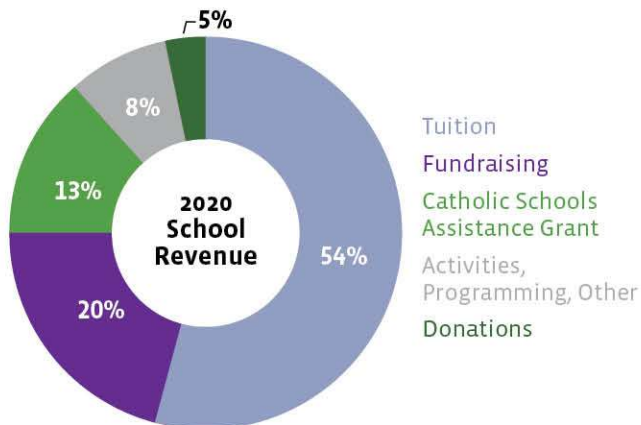


## 12 Month Period Ending

SCHOOL REVENUE	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
Tuition	\$663,132	\$489,867	\$527,774
Fundraising	\$254,739	\$282,118	\$378,502
Donations	\$163,643	\$100,264	\$38,717
Student Activities	\$18,009	\$27,574	\$24,257
Hot Lunch	\$7,736	\$16,834	\$22,892
Catholic Schools Assistance Grant	\$100,000	\$104,700	\$98,100
Other Income	\$13,346	\$33,077	\$32,685
After School Program **	\$4,187	\$3,900	\$2,685
<b>Total School Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,224,792</b>	<b>\$1,058,334</b>	<b>\$1,125,611</b>
SCHOOL EXPENDITURES	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
Personnel Related Expenditures	\$932,077	\$874,123	\$833,939
Operating Related Expenditures	\$252,456	\$277,426	\$278,496
Fundraising	\$17,788	\$34,460	\$30,059
Student Activities	\$17,735	\$22,669	\$29,501
Hot Lunch	\$4,794	\$13,574	\$22,260
After School Program	\$5,297	\$16,525	\$9,567
Uniforms & Athletic Supplies	\$7,786	\$11,269	\$21,611
<b>Total School Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,237,933</b>	<b>\$1,250,046</b>	<b>\$1,225,433</b>

When Expenditures are greater than Revenues the shortfall is covered by the Parish.

\*\* The After School Program expenditures in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and June 30, 2019, did not include personnel-related expenses.





# DEVELOPMENT & FINANCIAL REPORTS

St. Clare relies heavily on tax-deductible gifts and fundraisers to meet the needs of the school. We would like to express our gratitude to all who assisted by giving their time, talent or treasure this school year. Your continued support is vital to make Catholic education a reality for all children in our Valley.

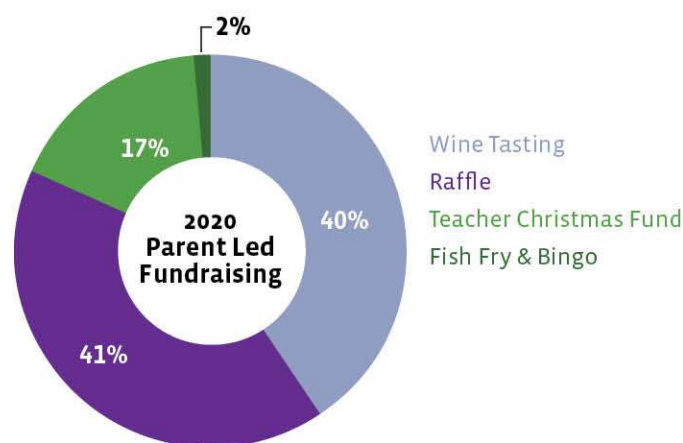
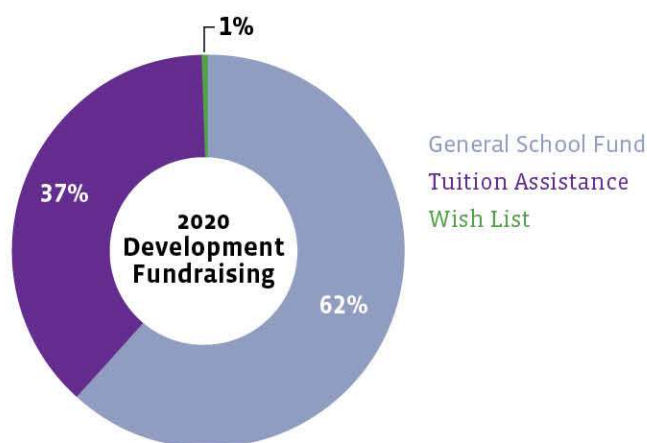
**If you are interested in donating a gift to St. Clare, please contact Daniel Kaelin, Development Director, at (970) 446-1101 or by email at [development@stclareparish.com](mailto:development@stclareparish.com).**

## 12 Month Period Ending

DEVELOPMENT REPORT	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
General School	\$198,696	\$270,426	\$282,002
Tuition Assistance/Adopt-A-Student	\$120,607	\$168,146	\$155,120
Wish List	\$1,498	\$9,620	\$7,368
<b>Total Raised</b>	<b>\$320,801</b>	<b>\$448,192</b>	<b>\$444,490</b>

## Net Dollars Raised for 12 Month Period Ending

PARENT-LED FUNDRAISING REPORT	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
Wine Tasting	\$33,179	\$42,420	\$68,274
Raffle	\$33,546	\$31,750	\$36,330
Teacher Christmas Bonus	\$13,895	\$15,975	\$19,470
Fish Fry & Bingo	\$995	\$925	\$880
<b>Total Raised</b>	<b>\$81,615</b>	<b>\$91,070</b>	<b>\$124,954</b>





# 2020 DONOR LIST



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING  
DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY THIS PAST YEAR:

Anthony Cavataio  
Barbara & Ed Farrell  
Bill & Kathy Kizer  
Bill & Maryann Christie  
Bob & Suzanne Shanley  
Brian & Cindi Falck  
Buch Family  
Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly  
Chip & Betty Anne  
Dan & Ginny Cassano  
Daniel C. Stewart  
Daniel Kaelin  
David & Amanda  
Deacon Stan & Charlotte Upah  
Deirdre Abbey Hagstrom  
Dr. Charles & Atlanta  
Duncan Tiemeyer  
Epperson Family  
Gallo Family  
Grojean Family  
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Ian Ferguson  
Javors Family  
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John & Elizabeth Labenski  
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Suzanna Poisson  
Tere & Jan  
Thomas & Sandra Thomas  
Tice Family  
Tom Kennedy  
Trudy & Robert Matarese  
Wrennie & Gary Knust

We also thank all of our donors  
who have contributed so  
generously to our school and  
wish to remain anonymous.

## THERESE GROJEAN SCHOLARSHIP



St. Clare of Assisi Catholic  
School is proud to  
announce the Therese  
Grojean Memorial  
Scholarship. Over the next  
eight years, the Grojean

Family has agreed to provide \$200,000  
in scholarship assistance to honor the  
memory of Therese Grojean. Her legacy will  
be carried forward to future generations of  
students and truly allow them to "bloom  
where [they're] planted."

We thank the Catholic parishes of the  
Valley for their support of St. Clare of  
Assisi Catholic School.

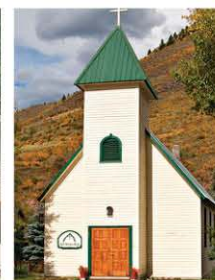
We also thank all those who attend  
the Vail and Beaver Creek Chapels for  
their support.



St. Clare of Assisi, Edwards



St. Mary, Eagle

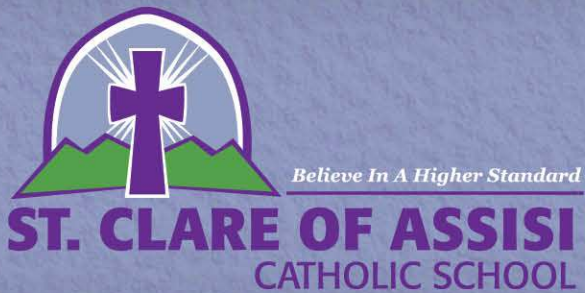


St. Patrick, Minturn





SUPPORT & CHALLENGE STUDENTS



LET US PERSEVERE IN RUNNING THE RACE  
THAT LIES BEFORE US  
- HEB 12:1

