

## **Joplin Area Catholic Schools to celebrate National Catholic Schools' Week Jan. 29-Feb. 4**

Bishop Edward Rice will celebrate an All-Schools' Mass on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 3035 Central City Road, Joplin, in celebration of National Catholic Schools Week. Joplin Area Catholic Schools, along with our neighboring Catholic school from Carthage will participate in the Mass.

St. Mary's, St. Peter's, and Sacred Heart parishes will kick off the week with JACSS students assisting at weekend masses. Activities during the week at St. Mary's Elementary, St. Peter's Middle School, and McAuley Catholic High School will honor teachers, clergy, students, community, volunteers, and parents during the week. "We are extremely blessed to have wonderful public schools in our area, and we have neither the intent nor the resources to try and compete with them!" said Father J Friedel, pastor at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church. "What makes a Catholic School unique is that we not only educate well, but we, more importantly, raise disciples for Jesus! That is something our public schools are not allowed to do, and I think it is something we are very good at! I invite anyone to come and see how our children pray...then you will see how good we are at what we do in the Joplin Area Catholic Schools!"

The events are part of the nationwide celebration of Catholic education during the week of January 29-February 4. The week's theme---"Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service---highlights the schools' focus on faith development, academic excellence, and dedication to community service.

At McAuley High School, in conjunction with Catholic Schools' Week, the Annual Warrior Basketball Classic will be held. Check [www.jacss.org](http://www.jacss.org) for the schedule.