



St. Agatha second graders Kobe Williams, Tatum Ruhnke, Campbell Krasneski, Britton Morris and Holden Walker pray the rosary while representing beads during a living rosary. It was one of the events held for the Sellwood school's Mary Week. (Courtesy St. Agatha School)

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## Mary Week at St. Agatha

St. Agatha School in Sellwood celebrated its first "Mary Week" from Dec. 9 to Dec. 13 in honor of the Blessed Mother.

The preschool-eighth grade school kicked off the weeklong celebration on Monday with the Mass of the Immaculate Conception organized by fifth graders. Tuesday featured an Advent prayer service. On Wednesday the student body came together in the gym to pray a liv-

ing rosary. Students stood as beads as they recited the prayers and mysteries together.

"We learned a lot about Mary and the birth of Jesus, and I especially liked the living rosary, because I had the opportunity to see and learn about the prayer through a strong visual," said eighth grader Caitlin Case.

On Thursday, Portland Auxiliary Bishop Peter Smith officiated at the school's Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Deacon Felix Garcia, director of the Portland Archdiocese's Hispanic ministry, spoke about the feast day, and a mariachi band provided music.

"I liked how festive the mariachi band was during the Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe; it was a good cultural and religious experience," said seventh grader Emily Martin.

"It's lovely that we have such a wonderful environment allowing us to celebrate Mary in such a variety of ways," said teacher Lauren Nelson.

The plan is to make the week an annual tradition.

"St. Agatha Catholic School is more than a school — it is a community of faith — and there is no better way to show this in action than to show our love for the Blessed Mother," said teacher Arnaud Prevot.

### St. Agatha School

7960 SE 15th Ave.  
Portland 97202  
503-234-5500  
info@stagatha.us  
stagathaschoolpdx.us  
Preschool through eighth grade,  
open enrollment  
Financial aid available  
Weekly Mass, half- and full-day  
preschools, full-day kinder-  
garten, after-school care, PE,  
technology, art, library, mu-  
sic, band, choir, service proj-  
ects, middle school electives.  
Open house: Jan. 30, 6 to 8  
p.m.