

Principal's Bulletin

From the Principal

Blessed first week of Advent!

As you will hear in Sunday's gospel for the 2nd week of Advent, "A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths."" (LK 3:1-6) We challenge all our school families to find ways to prepare their hearts and homes for the coming of the Lord. Here are some parish options that might help:

- * Advent Family Activities Event on Sunday, December 5th at SJB in St. Joseph Hall following the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- * Living Joy with Chris Stefanick – sign up for videos online [here](#). If desired, books to accompany (or in place of) the videos are for sale at the Welcome Desk in the Parish Center for \$10 each.
- * Advent 1% Challenge is now available for those of you who desire to spend some time reflecting on the word of God. Click [here](#) for more information.

During the month of December, we are practicing the virtue of PURITY. This is a great virtue for December as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Purity is keeping our souls free from sin so that the Lord can live within us. St. Dominic Savio, St. Agnes, and St. Maria Goretti are wonderful examples of how to live out this virtue. Let us all work to live the virtue of purity this Advent so that we are ready for the Lord to come into our hearts this Christmas.

As you can see from the December Calendar, it is a busy time of year for us here at SJB. Here is a snapshot of the upcoming events:

- The first trimester ends Friday, December 3rd. Report cards will be available the end of next week for you to view online in Educate.
- Poinsettia Pick-Up for any school families that ordered poinsettias is Friday, December 3rd from 2:30-3:30p in the Church plaza. Any parishioners can pick up their poinsettias following the weekend Masses at the Welcome Desk.
- St. Nicholas Day is Monday, December 6th. St. Nick will be visiting all our students in their classrooms on Monday. Be sure to ask what he left for them in their shoe.
- Our Christmas Band Concert is on Tuesday, December 7th at 7:00pm in the Church.
- Wednesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Please join us for the school Mass at 1:00pm (note the time change for the school Mass). There are also several other Masses that day - 6:30am, 8:30am, 5:30pm and 7:00pm
- Thursday, December 9th is our ADVENT OUTREACH NON- UNIFORM DAY – Students should bring in at least \$1 that day and then they may come out of uniform. All money raised will go to Sharing and Caring Hands along with the donated toys as part of this year's Advent service project - see below for details on the toy drive. Thank you in advance for your generosity.
- The SJB Christmas Shoppe will be held on Thursday, December 9th and Friday, December 10th. The Christmas Shoppe is an onsite shopping experience coordinated by the PTO that provides students the opportunity to purchase presents for parents, grandparents, and other friends/family members at a minimal cost. Students love choosing a special gift that will be a wonderful surprise. Envelopes for the Christmas Shoppe are going home today and tomorrow with your child. We encourage you to use the envelope to send mon-

ey (checks to St. John's) and include names of who they are purchasing gifts for so our volunteers can assist the students as they shop. Interested in helping at the Christmas Shoppe? If your Virtus training is up-to-date, please sign up here: [Christmas Shoppe Volunteer Signup](#)

- On Wednesday, December 15th our students in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation also know as penance or confession. In this sacrament we repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment in which we place ourselves in His presence and honestly acknowledge our sins. Check out the [United States Council of Catholic Bishops for more information on this sacrament](#).
- On Thursday, December 16th we will come together for our annual Christmas concert at 7:00pm in the Church. Our K-8 students have been busy preparing a great evening of song as a gift to their families to help get you in the Spirit of Christmas. Church doors will open at 6:30pm and students should report to St. Joseph Hall at 6:45pm. Please note that parents are responsible for supervising their children until 6:45pm. For dress code information please see below.
- Wednesday, December 22nd is the day we are celebrating our class Christmas parties. Similar to the Halloween parties, we will limiting the amount of parent volunteers. Please make sure to check with your child's room parent for more information.
- Christmas Break will begin on Thursday, December 23rd and run through December 31st. School will resume on Monday, January 3rd. J-care will be available on December 23rd, December 28th, December 29th, and December 30th for those of you who need childcare. Please see the [J-Care website](#) to sign up.

Blessings to you and your families during this Advent Season.

Ms. Ann Laird, Principal

Christmas Concert Attire and Notes for December 16th

With the approach of the Christmas Concert, we want to share with you the attire we would like the children to wear for that evening. Preferable attire would be what is worn for Christmas Mass. Guidelines below:

BOYS	GIRLS
Dress shirt, polo shirt, turtleneck or sweater	Dress or skirt that reaches the knees
Dress pants	Dress shirt, blouse, turtleneck or sweater
Dress Shoes	No spaghetti straps. Shoulders must be covered
Ties are optional, but encouraged	Dress pants or slacks
No Cologne	Dress shoes
No t-shirts or sweatshirts	No perfume
No jeans or sweatpants	No t-shirt or sweatshirt
No athletic shoes	No jeans or sweatpants
	No athletic shoes or flip-flops

All students will warm-up in **St. Joseph Hall** at **6:45 pm** - **please keep your student with you until warm-up time**. Also, please keep your student's coat with you (or hang it in the coat closet) as there will be no admittance back into the hall during the concert.

All students will be seated in the Hall during the concert. All grades will participate in the final song of the concert.

Note: Church doors for the concert will open at 6:30 pm.

Baptisms at St. John's

The weekend of November 27-28 was a most joyous occasion for our parish community as we welcomed 13 children in the waters of baptism. Two of these children are **Amelia and Everett Grosjean** who are in our school community. Everett and Amelia, along with their parents, Liz and Mathew, began preparation for the sacrament of baptism this fall, meeting with Jill Fink, our new Coordinator of Adult Discipleship. In a series of meetings they came to understand the meaning of this sacrament. Since Liz and Mathew Grosjean are new to our parish community, they were in need of godparents. Ann and Ryan Meyer, school parents and baptism class teaching couple were called with the request to discern this role. The families met and soon felt God's blessing on the role to help support Liz and Matt in raising their children in the Catholic faith. Congratulations to Everett and Amelia! May the Holy Spirit continue to bless you as you hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow Him throughout your lives. May God bless your parents and godparents for their support and witness of faith.



The Catholic church baptizes all ages – children, youth and adults. For more information on the Sacrament of Baptism for infants, contact Michael Lane, Sacraments Coordinator at lanem@stjohnnyb.org or 651.633.1540 ext. 1219. For more information on preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism for children, youth and adults, contact Jill Fink, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at finkj@stjohnnyb.org or 651.633.1540 ext. 1280.

Wines to Wishes 2022

Wines to Wishes is St. John's largest fundraising event, and we are so excited to be back in person this year!

Save the date for Saturday, February 5, 2022!

Our first planning meeting will be on Thursday, December 9th, at 7:00pm in room 204 (second floor of the Parish). There are several ways to volunteer for Wines to Wishes before, during, and after the event, so please consider taking on a role. Many hands definitely make lighter work!

If you are unable to attend but would still like to volunteer or if you have questions, please reach out to Michelle Barsness (barsnessm@stjohnnyb.org).

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zonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice - St. John's!

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you will be asked to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping - please choose St. John the Baptist. Thank you!

SJB Advent Service Project

This year St. John's is working with Sharing and Caring Hands and Mary's Place. We are holding a Toy/Gift Drive throughout Advent, focusing on living out a generous spirit.

We ask students to bring in a new, unwrapped gift valued at no more than \$20. The toy/gift should be something your child would enjoy receiving for Christmas.

Please avoid gifts that require batteries, video games or contain many pieces.

Cash donations will also be accepted in lieu of toy/gift.

All gifts should be turned in to the students' homeroom teachers by Thursday, December 16th.

Thank you and God Bless

Any questions— contact Mrs. Troxel at troxelb@stjohnnyb.org



Advent Activities

Hospitality and Advent Stations
December 5th in St. Joseph's Hall
after 8:30 & 10:30 Masses

**Bring more
Catholic
traditions into
your home for
Christmas!**



*Christmas cards for the
homebound*

Jesse Tree activity

December Saints

*St. Nicholas treats
for the kids*

SJB Parish News



First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation families are encouraged to bring their workbook to hospitality after Mass on December 5th and check in with Jen Livermont or Jill Fink in St. Joseph's Hall. Show us your hard work completing lessons 1-8 and receive a special gift!



The Season of Advent

It's not too late to start the Season of Advent! St. John's is providing the following:

+ An online Advent Retreat created by Chris Stefanick called, *LIVING JOY 9 Rules that will Change your Life*. Sign up here <https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/living-joy> Content is free until December 31, so no worries if you miss a few along the way! Cards can be found at the Harvest Table.

+ If you're tired of the virtual online scene and you prefer something in your hands Chris Stefanick's book *LIVING JOY 9 Rules to Help you Rediscover and Live JOY Every Day* is available at the Welcome Desk for \$10.

+ The Advent 1% Challenge is based on the Gospel of Luke this year. 1% of your day is just 15 minutes. Cards can be found at the Harvest Table.

Closing out the Year of St. Joseph

Close out the Year of St. Joseph with a talk and some prayer time. St. Joseph's fatherhood leads us to the Fatherhood of God. Join parishioner, Steve Broszko, as he helps us reflect on the Our Father and then take that knowledge into a guided prayer time. There will be 2 options for the talk.

Parish Wide Event:

Monday, Dec. 6 at 6:30-7:30 pm in St. Joseph Hall

Catholic Watchmen (for men only):

Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph Hall

**This event opens an opportunity to parishioners to receive a Plenary Indulgence. To receive the indulgence, one would need to meet the usual conditions: Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father within 20 days of the above event however it is fitting to receive Communion and pray for the Holy Father's intentions on the day.

Tools for the holidays

How to Share Your Faith... and How Not to!

With the holidays underway and plenty of meetings with family and friends, how do we navigate those tough conversations around faith. Or how do we gently prompt that one person who is so close to faith but may need just a gentle nudge. Join us for our **Faith Story Workshop** and receive encouragement and practical tips this **Tuesday, December 7 from 6:30- 8pm**. We are excited to invite Andre Lesperance Senior Content Creator and Ministry Consultant with Evangelical Catholic (EC). St. John's has been partnering with EC since 2019 as we continue to develop the Mission Process and become an evangelizing parish.