

Happy First Week of Advent!

LET US GO REJOICING TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. Ps 122

We hope that everyone's Advent is off to a great start. Remember to check with your students about how they are doing on the ADVENT CHALLENGE. A number of the items on the challenge are for you to do as a family so give them a try! This is a great way for your entire family to set aside some time and prepare for the coming of Christ.

December's virtue is generosity, giving without counting the cost. There are many ways your family can practice this virtue. It can be anything from giving to or helping those who are less fortunate to encouraging generosity in how we talk to each other or about others. This is a wonderful time of year to practice this virtue and fits the Advent season of preparing our hearts for Christ.

We sent out the December calendar last week but here are some highlights that are important:

- December 6th is St. Nicholas Day. He will be visiting each of our classrooms during the day. [Here](#) is more information for you regarding St. Nicholas.
- December 8th is Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. Join us for the 8:30am Mass. If you are unable to make that Mass, St. John's will be offering masses at the following dates/times: 6:30am and 7:00pm on Thursday, December 8th and an evening vigil Mass at 5:30pm on Wednesday, December 7th.
- On December 13th and 14th we will host our famous Christmas Shoppe at school. The Christmas Shoppe is an onsite shopping experience coordinated by parent volunteers that provides students with the opportunity to purchase presents for family members or friends at a minimal cost. Students love choosing a special gift that will be a wonderful surprise. This is an optional opportunity for our students. More information regarding the Christmas Shoppe and volunteer opportunities will be coming soon.
- Thursday, December 15th is the Christmas Band concert at 6:00pm in the Church. Whether you have a band student or not, we invite you to join us for this evening as a great way to get into the festive spirit.
- Friday, December 16th is our Preschool through 2nd grade Christmas concert at 1:15pm in the Church. Following the program, cookies and cocoa will be available in St. Joseph Hall.
- Tuesday, December 20th is our 3rd-8th grade Advent Lessons and Carols concert at 7:00pm in the Church.
- Wednesday, December 21st is our last day of school before Christmas Break. It is also the day of classroom Christmas parties. Students may come out of uniform on this day dressed in Christmas colors or a Christmas-themed shirt (jeans or sweatpants are okay on this day). If you are in need of care over the Christmas holiday break for K-8 students, please see the J-Care page of the website regarding which days they are open over break and to register your student. [J-Care School Release days](#)

Our first trimester ends tomorrow, Friday, December 2nd. Reports cards will be ready for you to view via Educate on Friday, December 9th. Please make sure to

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Upcoming Events:

Poinsettia Pickup

Dec. 2 2:30-3:30
Dec. 3 after 4:30pm Mass
Dec. 4 after 8:30 & 10:30 Mass

St. Nicholas Day

December 6

Christmas Shoppe

December 13 & 14

Reconciliation, Gr. 3-8

December 14

Band Concert

December 15, 1:00pm Church
December 15, 6:00pm Church

Christmas Program, Pre-Gr2

December 16, 1:15pm Church

Advent Lessons & Carols

Grades 3-8

December 20, 7:00pm Church

Christmas Break

December 22 - January 2

School Resumes

January 3, 2023

log in to Educate to check out grades and how your child is doing on their learning behaviors.

Finally, each school year we are required to practice emergency drills with the students. We practice fire drills, tornado drills and lockdown drills. We wanted to let you know that we are planning to conduct a lockdown drill on Monday, December 5th. This will be our first drill of the year practicing what students should do if there were an intruder in the school. We know that this can be concerning for students and they may have questions, so we want our parents to be aware of the upcoming practice.

Have a blessed start to the second week of Advent and a wonderful weekend.

Ms. Ann Laird, Principal

Wines to Wishes 2023

Wines to Wishes is St. John the Baptist School's premiere event that funds critical needs and upgrades of the school as well as celebrates 70 years of faith-filled excellence in education. Save the date for Saturday, February 4, 2023!

Funds from this year's event will go towards classroom carpeting, gym improvements, and upgrades to our school bathrooms. Money raised above and beyond our fund-a-need goal will go to our tuition endowment fund.

A big part of our event is our silent and live auction, and for these to be successful, we need donations! If you are able and interested in donating, we have a few different options, which can be found on the [donations page of our Wines to Wishes website](#).

- ~ You can shop from our Amazon Wish List from the comfort of your home, and the list is set up to ship directly to school. It's super easy – you can even shop in your pajamas! Stay tuned for a Target Wish List!
- ~ If you are able to purchase a gift card, we have a sign up genius to track the donations. This will require you to go to the location, purchase the gift card, and then deliver it to school. We use gift cards in a variety of ways at the event.
- ~ We can shop for you! Simply donate online using the link, or you can drop off a check or cash to the school office (checks to St. John's)
- ~ Not interested in any of the items on our wish lists? Feel free to be creative or choose from any of the ideas on our donation page (tickets to events, alcohol, etc.).

To learn more about our event, donations, and/or sponsorships, visit our website: www.winestowishes.com. Invitations will be sent to families soon with information on how to register. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Contact Michelle Barsness (barsnessm@stjohnnyb.org) with any questions.



Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support St. John's every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, 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. 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.



SJB Athletics - Hockey Registrations Now Open

SJB Hockey is available for students in grades 5-8 (boys and girls on one team). We are looking for a few more players to join the SJB hockey team this school year. If your child would like to participate, please complete the online registration form. All fees will be billed through TADS.



[SJB Hockey Registration](#)

Questions? Contact Mr. Cole Van Beusekom at vanbeusekomc@stjohnnyb.org

CSCOE - SHINE ON!

Catholic school students have talent!

The Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) is proud to partner with **Lundstrum Performing Arts** to celebrate the gifts of our Catholic school students and nurture their talents.

Students in grades 4-8 from all Catholic elementary schools invited to participate in *Shine On! A Showcase of Catholic School Talent* as performing and/or visual artists.

If your child would like to participate:

1. Submit video auditions and photos of artwork via an online portal.
2. Finalists in Shine On! receive professional coaching from our partner, Lundstrum Performing Arts.
3. Did you know there is an opening and closing ensemble?! All entries are encouraged to join. Entries can also opt to only participate in the ensemble.
4. Monetary prizes are awarded for both winners and schools!

Performing Arts Submission Window is NOW OPEN! Submit auditions through December 11, 2022

Visual Arts Submission Window
January 1 - 31, 2023

Shine On! Showcase
March 12, 2023 | 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Visitation High School, Mendota Heights



All Submission information may be found at www.shineontalent.org

SJB Parish News

First Sacraments - Second Check Point

All second grade students enrolled in our First Sacraments Program: Our second Check Point for the completion of the November Home Lessons is **Sunday, December 4**. We have a special Advent Calendar as a prize which doubles as a way to help your children mark down the days until Christmas. Go to the Welcome Desk after any Mass to show your completed lessons and be encouraged with the gift.



Questions? Contact Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis at 651.633.1540 ext. 1280 or finkj@stjohnnyb.org

DO ADVENT RIGHT

COME BE PART OF REJOICE A PILGRIMAGE INTO THE HEART OF SCRIPTURE

In her wisdom, the Church gives us the gift of Advent, a very special season. Advent is a season of preparation, a time to ready our hearts and journey with Mary and Joseph as they prepare to welcome their son, the Savior of the world.

Rejoice, is an Advent Retreat.

You will receive an **inspirational daily journal** that helps focus your heart and mind on praying with the Sunday readings.

The journal offers you the **ARRR method of prayer**, often referred to as the Pirate Prayer: Acknowledge, Relate, Receive, Respond

Each week of Advent the parish will offer **group gatherings** in Rm 210

Monday Evenings 7-8 pm in: 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19

Wednesday Mornings 9:30-10:30 am: 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21

The gatherings will offer the same content but on 2 days and times in order to accommodate many differing schedules.

Each session will include, prayer, fellowship, discussion, and a video featuring Fr. Mark Touts, Sr. Josephine Garrett, and Fr. Josh Johnson

Register with the QR code. Must be registered to receive a book.
Begin journal on the 1st Sunday of Advent November 27
Pick up the books after Mass on Saturday 11/26 and Sunday 11/27 at the Welcome Desk



Contact: Jessica Balzarini
balzarinij@stjohnnyb.org | 651-633-8333



Middle School Youth Group
Friday, December 9th, 7-8:30pm
In the Youth Room

Join our middle school community on Friday, December 9th from 7:00-8:30 pm. The evening will include games, snacks, messages, and prayer. This is an opportunity for our middle schoolers to gather to grow in faith and fellowship with one another.

No registration is necessary.