

From the Principal

December 15, 2022

Blessings to you on this 3rd week of Advent. On Sunday we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, which means rejoice, and here at St. John's we are beginning to rejoice and grow with excitement as the birth of the Lord draws near. We are busy rejoicing in the following ways:

- Preschool through grade 2 students will be participating in a Christmas Concert on Friday, December 16th at 1:15pm in the Church. Following the program, we invite our students and guests to a short reception in St. Joseph Hall. This program will also be live-streamed for those unable to make it. A link will be sent out to families prior to the Friday performance. Please see below for information on dress for students.
- Our 3rd through 8th grade students will be presenting their Advent Lessons and Carols Concert on Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00pm in the Church. This program will also be live-streamed for those unable to make it. A link will be sent out to families prior to the Tuesday performance. Please see below for information on dress for students and a special collection to help Sharing and Caring Hands.
- Christmas Classroom Parties are Wednesday, December 21st. This is the last day of school before we break for the Christmas holiday. 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).

PK-2nd Christmas Concert Important Information: Students in grades K-2 may be out of uniform on this day. We encourage students to be dressed festively - in Christmas colors or Christmas themed attire.

3rd-8th grade Concert Important Information: Students should wear their Sunday best - no jeans, sweatpants, or yoga pants are allowed. Boys should wear dress pants with a sweater or button-up or polo-type shirt. Girls should wear a dress or a skirt or dress pants with a sweater or dressy-type shirt.

St. John's school will be on Christmas break from Thursday, December 22nd thru Monday, January 2nd. We will resume school on Tuesday, January 3rd. J- Care is open for SJB students in grades K-8 on December 22nd, 27th, 28th, and 29th. Please click [here](#) for more information.

As we approach Christmas, we want to make you aware of all the great liturgies happening at St. John's and invite you to come celebrate the birth of Christ with us.

- Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:30pm
- Sunday, December 25th Christmas Mass at 8:30am and 10:30am

Finally, just a reminder that there is still time to prepare for the birth of Christ with our Advent challenge. Be sure to hand in your Advent challenge sheet on Wednesday, December 21st for your rewards.

Blessings-

Ms. Ann Laird, Principal

Upcoming Events:

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



Santa Grams

Reminder that all Santa Grams should be filled out and turned in tomorrow, Friday, December 16th.

Coloring Contest

Coloring contest submissions are also due tomorrow, Friday, December 16th. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each grade. This is an optional activity for students.

VFW Patriot's Pen Contest

Students in grades 7 and 8 recently participated in a national writing contest sponsored by the VFW. Patriot's Pen gives students an opportunity to reflect on and write about a specific theme, which changes every year. Essays are judged at a local post, and winners then advance through the district, state, and national levels. This year's theme was "My Pledge to Veterans."

St. John's is proud to say that four of our students won prizes at the local level! Terry Hoye, a member of local VFW Post 724, visited our school to present the awards.

Gabriella E. won 1st place, and advanced to the 4th District where she was awarded honorable mention. Amelia W. took second place. Emily S. and Danielle J. tied for 3rd place. Congratulations!



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](#).

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.



Hygiene Bags for Sharing and Caring Hands

As we continue to practice the virtue of Generosity this December and Advent, we invite all our students to bring in a Hygiene Bag for those in need. These bags will be brought to Sharing and Caring Hands. Please bring this gallon bag filled with the following items to your child's Christmas Concert:



Washcloth
 Toothbrush
 Full size Toothbrush
 Full size Shampoo (or body wash)
 Deodorant

Thank you!

SJB Swimming - Registration Now Open!

St. John the Baptist Swim Team is open to students in all students in grades K-8. To participate, **EACH SWIMMER MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM 25 YARDS UNASSISTED AND WITHOUT STOPPING.** We have a few parent volunteer coaches that will work with swimmers to improve their skills, gain confidence, and have fun!

Registration information may be found on the [Athletic page](#) of the school website or by clicking [HERE](#). The registration deadline is Thursday, December 29th.

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



Wrestling



YOUTH WRESTLING

St. John's is excited to partner with Totino-Grace High School to offer a youth wrestling program for boys in grades K-8.

An informational Flyer with more information and the registration links can be found on the [Athletics page of the SJB website](#) or by clicking on the links below.

[Wrestling Flyer](#) [Youth Wrestling Registration](#)

Any questions should be directed to Mr. Dan Vandermyde via email or phone: dan.vandermyde@totinograce.org or 763-586-6305

SJB Parish News

Advent Confession Times:

Special Advent Confession Times:

Sunday, December 18 at 3:30 pm—5:00 pm

- *Twelve priests will be hearing individual Confessions*

Tuesday, December 20 from 7:00 am - 8:15 am

Wednesday, December 21 from 3:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Our Regular Confession Times:

Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 8:20 am

Wednesday from 5:00 pm - 5:20 pm

- *No Confessions on December 24*
- *No Confessions on December 25*

JOURNEY TO THE INN

with the Wise Men

Saturday, January 7th 2023

4:30 pm Mass (*nursery available*)

5:30 pm Dinner by Knights of Columbus
Mostaccioli, salad and bread
GF and vegetarian options available
Pay at the door
\$7/person
\$30/family (*kids plus 2 adults only*)

6:15 pm Bible reading and songs
in the Church
Candlelight procession
Christmas carols following Wise Men
Live animals at the stable
Hot cocoa and cookies - St. Joe's Hall



SJB Women's Retreat

Awaken ✝

Arise, shine, for your light has come
and the glory of the Lord has risen
upon you. Psalm 60:1

JANUARY
13-15

Lead by:
Fr. Paul Shovelain
Jessica Balzarini

Franciscan Retreat
Center | Prior Lake



Perfect retreat for someone who
has never been. Take time to relax
and grow closer to God.

Open to all Women
from SJB 18+
Limited Space

Freewill offering at the
End of the Retreat

Arrive Friday by 6 pm
Depart Sunday by 2:30 pm

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