

November 30, 2023

From the Principal

Blessings to all as we come to the end of November and enter December and the beginning of Advent on Sunday! Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the wonderful gift God gave us - His son, Jesus Christ. Let us make sure that we do not lose sight of the importance of Christ while we are busy planning, buying, and celebrating this time of year. Here at St. John's, there are a number of ways we help each other to keep our sights on the real meaning of Christmas and to prepare our hearts for His coming:

- The **Advent Challenge** for students will go home with students tomorrow, Friday, December 1st. They are due on Thursday, December 21st. This challenge will give the students and the whole family service opportunities, activities or prayers to do each day.
- Students in grade 3-8 will have the opportunity to receive the Lord's forgiveness during **Reconciliation** on December 5th for students in grades 3-5 and December 6th for students in grades 6-8
- St. John's will have a visit from **St. Nicholas** on Wednesday, December 6th
- Please join us for our weekly school masses each Wednesday at 8:30am during Advent. We will also be celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, next week on Friday, December 8th at 8:30am. If you are unable to attend this mass, St. John's has the following masses for this Holy Day: Vigil Mass at 5:30pm on December 7 and 6:30am, 8:30am and 7:00pm on Friday, December 8.
- Christmas Concerts to celebrate Advent and the Christmas season on Friday, December 15th for Preschool - 2nd grades at 12:45pm and Tuesday, December 19th for grades 3-8 at 7:00pm. Both of these programs will be held in the Church.

Our SJB Christmas Shoppe will be open on Tuesday, December 12th and Wednesday, December 13th. The Christmas Shoppe is run by the PTO and allows our students (in grades K-8) the opportunity to buy gifts for their family and friends. Your child's teacher will communicate which day your child's class will be attending. The Shoppe is looking for some parent volunteers to assist students with their shopping. In order to volunteer, you **MUST** be up-to-date with your Virtus training, including a background check.

Questions? Please contact Michelle Kohlmeyer at michellepitzl@gmail.com.

Want to volunteer? Sign up here: [SJB Christmas Shoppe Volunteers](#)

Here are a few other items to be aware of:

- Reminder for those of you who ordered poinsettias as part of the 8th grade Washington, D.C. fundraiser that the pick up is this weekend. You may pick up your order on Friday, December 1st from 2:30-3:30pm, Saturday, December 2nd following the 4:30pm Mass, or Sunday, December 3rd following the 8:30am or 10:30am morning Masses. Thank you for supporting our 8th graders and their DC trip.
- The next PTO Out of Uniform for Teachers Fundraiser is next Tuesday, December 5th. Students who bring in at least \$1.00 may come to school out of uniform. All money raised is used for appreciation events for teachers.

Upcoming Events:

End of First Trimester	Dec 1
First Sunday of Advent	Dec 3
Non-Uniform for Teachers	Dec 5
Reconciliation Gr 3-8	Dec 5-6
Band Concert	Dec 11
SJB Christmas Shoppe	Dec 12-13
Christmas Concert, Pre-2	Dec 15
Christmas Concert, 3-8	Dec 19

SJB School Amazon Wish List

We are asked frequently by generous friends of SJB what items the teachers need or want for their classrooms and school. We have an Amazon Wish List that we add to as those needs are communicated to us. For anyone who might be interested, this list is below:

[SJB School](#)
[Amazon Wish List](#)

- Also on Tuesday, December 5th, St John's parish is hosting a Father-Son Advent event with Matt Burke of the Minnesota Vikings and Super Bowl Champion with Baltimore Ravens. Calling all Father and Sons 5th grade and up to come for fellowship and faith. Dinner at 5:30pm followed by talk at 6:00pm. Find more information on this event along with other upcoming parish events on the St. John's Parish Website's [Upcoming Events page](#).
- SJB Band Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, December 11th 6:30pm in the Church.
- There is no school for Christmas break from Friday, December 22nd through Monday, January 1st. School resumes on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Finally, this month we are working on the virtue of patience which is waiting or enduring without complaint. The saints we are studying along with learning our virtue are St. Monica, St. Isaac Jogues, and St. Rita of Cascia. Let us work on our patience as we wait for Christ's birth.

Join us for Mass this weekend as we begin the Advent season!
Ms. Ann Laird, Principal

Fr Joseph invites you to Join the Children's Choir

Fr. Joseph is looking for students in grades 3-8 and up to be a part of the St. John's Children's Choir that will be leading us in music at the Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Mass. There will be two practices, one on Wednesday, December 13 from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm, and the other on Wednesday, December 20 from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. On Sunday, December 24, we will have a final rehearsal from 2:00 pm-3:45 pm, before the Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 pm. All practices will be in the choir room downstairs.

If your child(ren) are interested, please email Father Joseph at frnguyen@stjohnnyb.org with your child's name and grade.

Father is also looking for parents who are available to help out with practice. He would like to have one who can play the piano and others to encourage the children to sing and keep them focused. You will need to have their E3 (Virtus) completed. If you are interested, please let Father Joseph know in your email.

There will also be a few practices before school starts from 7:30am-7:50am. These times are not required and are additional to the Wednesday evening ones.

Father is looking forward to working with the children to use their gifts to glorify God and lead our community in prayer!



SJB Athletics – Hockey Registration



Tomorrow is the FINAL day to register for SJB Hockey. Hockey is open to boys and girls in grades 5-8 who are interested in playing hockey for SJB this winter. Hockey teams are coed and will consist of students in all four grades. Find registration information on the [Athletics Page of the SJB Website](#).

Any questions should be directed to Mr. Cole VanBeusekom at vanbeusekomc@stjohnnyb.org

December After-School Art Classes

After-school art classes are being offered in December for students in grades K-8. View the class list and register your child for a class or two on the [SJB Art Page](#) of the school website or by clicking on the links below. Be sure to note the age requirement for each class as some classes are appropriate for different ages. Fees for classes will be charged to your Tads accounts.



ART CLASS

[December
After-School Art Class
Descriptions](#)

[December Art Class
Registration](#)

Please join us for the next
St. John the Baptist School's PTO

NON-UNIFORM FUNDRAISER

Tuesday
Dec. 5th
of the 2023-2024 School Year



Help us appreciate our teachers all year!

PTO Non-Uniform Day
Tuesday, Dec. 5th

Teacher Name _____

\$1 Minimum Donation

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUPPORT PTO SPONSORED
ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS!



FUNDRAISER EVENT AT NAUTICAL BOWLS

Join us at Nautical Bowls Blaine for a
day to raise funds for St. John's the Baptist!

December 10th, 2023 2p-6p
10904 BALTIMORE ST NE
BLAINE, MN

10% of all sales will be donated to
the 8th grade DC trip!

Nautical Bowls Blaine
is proud to partner
with SJB and support
the 8th graders as they
prepare for their
upcoming trip to DC.

Hope to see you there!



Learn more about Nautical Bowls at NAUTICALBOWLS.COM