

December 7, 2023

## From the Principal

Happy Advent! We have had a busy first week of Advent with our Advent Confessions, a visit from St. Nick, and tomorrow celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As we look toward the second week of Advent, we are called by St. John the Baptist to make straight the path so that we are ready for the coming of Christ. In addition to preparing for Christmas, we are also practicing the virtue of patience.

Here are some reminders for the next few weeks:

- Join us for Mass tomorrow, Friday, December 8th at 8:30am where we will be celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. If you are unable to attend this mass, St. John's also has the following Masses for this Holy Day: Vigil Mass at 5:30pm tonight, December 7, and 6:30am and 7:00pm tomorrow, Friday, December 8.
- Our SJB band concert is Monday, December 11th at 6:30pm in the Church. Come and listen to our talented students!
- Join Phoenix School Counseling and Dr. Jules Nolan for a Parenting in Unpredictable Times Parent Webinar on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 PM. Discussion will be on how the holidays provide parents with lots of experiences of unpredictability and address strategies to bolster your child's resilience during these times. [Register for the webinar here](#). The webinar will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. You can watch the recording of the [November Parent Webinar: What you can save them from & what must they experience to build emotionally strong kids](#).
- The SJB Christmas Shop will be here next week on Tuesday, December 12th and Wednesday, December 13th. This is an optional activity for students, however, all K-8 classes will visit the shoppe during the two days. 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. Students will come home with a shopping list and envelope. Cash or check (to St. John's) accepted.
- SJB Christmas Concerts are Friday, December 15th for Preschool through grade 2 at 12:45pm and Tuesday, December 19th for grades 3-8 at 7:00pm. We do expect all our students to participate in the Christmas concert. Dress for students for both concerts is "Christmas best." Students in preschool through grade 2 may wear their outfits to school on the 15th. Please note that dress should be appropriate for the occasion. All concerts will take place in the Church.
- Class Christmas parties are Thursday, December 21st. Students may come out of uniform on this day wearing Christmas colors or a Christmas themed shirt. Jeans or sweatpants are okay for students to wear on this day.
- There is no school for Christmas break from Friday, December 22nd through Monday, January 1st. School resumes on Tuesday, January 2nd.
- Christmas will be celebrated at SJB on Sunday, December 24th with 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 10:30pm Masses and on Monday, December 25th with 8:30am and 10:30am Masses. Please note that the Christmas Eve Mass does not count as your Sunday Mass commitment for the 4th Sunday of Advent.

### Upcoming Events:

Band Concert  
Dec 11

SJB Christmas Shoppe  
Dec 12-13

Christmas Concert, Pre-2  
Dec 15 @ 12:45pm

Christmas Concert, 3-8  
Dec 19 @ 7:00pm

Christmas Break  
Dec 21-Jan 1

School Resumes  
Jan 2

### 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](#)

As we move into winter, we want to remind everyone of our severe weather policy and how we notify you of any potential school closures due to winter weather. SJB typically follows the Mounds View Public School District for severe weather school cancellations or early dismissal. If we are canceling school, we will notify you as soon as possible via the following methods:

1. All families will be emailed with the notification of the closure. This email will be sent to the same distribution list as the Principal's Bulletin each week.
2. Notification of the school closure will be shown on the school website ([www.stjohnnyb.org](http://www.stjohnnyb.org))
3. The school closure will be listed on all four of the local news channels (WCCO - 4, KSTP - 5, KMSP - 9 and KARE - 11). The notification will be listed as St. John the Baptist or St. John's with New Brighton noted.
4. If significant winter weather develops during the school day, the district may decide to stage buses early. If this happens, we will again email families this information and post it on our school website. Please note that we do our best to notify families as soon as we get the information from the school district, but sometimes we are not able to give you much advance notice.

Additionally, please make sure your child comes appropriately dressed for the weather and recess. Students will continue to go outside for recess everyday unless it is raining or the temperature, including the wind chill is below 0°F. If there is snow, please remember boots and snowpants. Remember to label everything!

**Morning Drop Off:** Just a reminder that with winter weather the roads can be "messy" and slow travel in the morning and our car drop off line can get backed up. In order to speed up the drop off line, please use the entire sidewalk and have your children exit the car as soon as you are stopped along the sidewalk which runs the full length of the school playground. Finally, just a reminder that if you are driving up and it is 7:50am or later, please drive around and drop your child(ren) off at the school office. Our staff need to be able to get to their respective classrooms/areas to be ready for the students, so we need to close the outside doors at 7:50am.

Finally, we hope you have been working on your Advent Challenge. The Advent Challenge went home last Friday and is a wonderful way for your children and the entire family to prepare for Christmas. Remember that the turn in day for the challenge is on Thursday, December 21st!

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](mailto: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!

## Santa Grams and Christmas Coloring Contest

The SJB Student Ambassadors are hosting two activities for our students this Advent and Christmas. These are both optional activities for students.



### SANTA GRAMS

Student Ambassadors are sponsoring Santa Grams. These are notes that may be purchased to send to other students or staff at SJB. They are 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00 and will be sold in the classrooms next week, December 12-14. All grams should be filled out and returned to school no later than Friday, December 15th.

### COLORING CONTEST

Ambassadors will also be sponsoring a coloring contest for our students. Coloring sheets will be distributed to students on Monday, December 11th and are due no later than Friday, December 15th. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each grade.



## 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



**ART CLASS**

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.

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

[December Art Class  
Registration](#)

**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](https://NAUTICALBOWLS.COM)