

March 21, 2024

From the Principal

Welcome back to everyone! We hope you all had a relaxing Spring break.

As we finish out another week of Lent, we look to this weekend when we will be celebrating Palm Sunday this Sunday (remember to wear **RED**). We welcome Archbishop Hebda to celebrate the 10:30am Sunday Mass with us this weekend. On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem before he begins his last days on earth which we call Holy Week. This is a week where we walk with Him through his passion, death, and Resurrection. As part of our "Stepping Up Close to Jesus" next week, the students and staff will spend some time each day walking with Jesus through these important events beginning with Palm Sunday and then moving onto Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. We welcome parents to join us in the Church for the following:

- Re-enactment of the Last Supper and Rosary on Tues., March 26th at 1:30pm
- Passion and Veneration of the Cross on Wed., March 27th at 1:30pm
- Adoration as we rejoice in the Resurrection on Thurs., March 28th at 1:30pm

Holy Week liturgies at St. John the Baptist Church:

Holy Thursday, March 28th

7:00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, March 29th

12:00pm Stations of the Cross

3:00pm Solemn Good Friday Liturgy

8:00pm Tenebrae: Service of darkness and shadows

Holy Saturday, March 30th

8:00pm The Great Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, March 31st

Masses at 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am

See the [Lent page](#) of the parish website for more details on these liturgies as well as other Lenten events for the remaining days of Lent and Holy Week.

Following are some items for you to be aware of:

- Kindergarten Family, Faith, and Fellowship Morning will be held on Wednesday, March 27th. We invite our kindergarten families to join us for Mass followed by a short program in the Church and then fellowship and a light breakfast in St. Joseph Hall. Please [RSVP](#) so we know you are coming.
- There will be No School for all students in preschool through grade 8 on Good Friday, March 29th and Easter Monday, April 1st. There is no J-Care or Care Crew available on either day.
- Join the parish for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday, March 30th at 10:00am. See below for more details. We do need some volunteers to help make this a successful event! Here is the Sign-Up Link: [Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers](#). We have many spots open for Middle School and High School students to run kids games as well as some adult volunteer opportunities as well. This is an easy way to finish up your volunteer hours for the school year

Upcoming Events:

SJB Fish Fry followed by Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 22nd
5pm - 7pm

Middle School 2024 W2W Movie Event

Friday, March 22nd

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

March 24 - March 29

Kindergarten FFF Morning

Wednesday, Mar. 27th

Good Friday - No School

Friday, March 29th

Easter Monday - No School

Monday, April 1st

PTO Non-Uniform Day

Thursday, April 4th

Vision/Hearing Screening

Monday, April 8th

No Busing Days

Mon-Fri, April 10-12

and give back to a fun community event.

- There will be No District Bussing on Wednesday, April 10, Thursday, April 11th or Friday, April 12th. Morning drop-off will be at the north/gym lot and afternoon pickup from the main Church lot. Preschool drop-off and pickup will remain the same. The two SJB charter buses to the Blaine area will run normally.

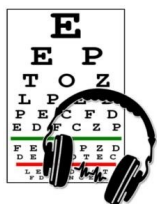
Finally, since this winter has been so mild, we fortunately haven't had any weather related school closures this school year. With the snowy weather in the forecast, we wanted to remind everyone of our school closure notification procedures in the event that our upcoming snow results in a need for this to go into effect: In the event of a school closing due to emergency or severe weather, a notice will be sent via email to all those on file (this is the same email list that receives this Principal's Bulletin). All closures will also be communicated to the local news channels - WCCO-4, KSTP-5, KMSP-9, and KARE-11. In general, SJB will follow the Mounds View District 621 for all weather-related closures, however, we reserve the right to deviate from their decision and may decide to hold school with a no-busing option in certain circumstances. In addition to the news notifications, any closure information will be posted on our website as well as on our social media channels. If it is necessary to close due to weather for more than two days in a row, we will move to a distance-learning format beginning on the third consecutive closure day.

Blessings to you all and a Happy Palm Sunday. Remember to wear red to Mass this weekend!

Ms. Ann Laird

Vision and Hearing Screening

Vision and Hearing Screening for students will take place at St. John's on Monday, April 8th. The following students will be tested: Students in kindergarten, 1st grade, new students and those on an IEP will have both vision and hearing tested. Students in 3rd and 5th grade will have vision tested only. If teachers and/or parents have any concerns, those students will be tested as well.



We are in need of several volunteers who would be available to help with our screening. No prior training or education is necessary. Volunteer commitment is from approximately 8:00am - 2:00pm. Please contact Joy Thienes by Tuesday, April 2nd at thienesj@stjohnnyb.org if you are interested and available. **All volunteers must be Virtus compliant.**

Easter Grams & Easter Coloring Contest

Easter Grams: Student Ambassadors are sponsoring Easter 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 March 25-27. All grams should be filled out and returned to school no later than the morning of Thursday, March 28th and to students on April 2nd.



Easter Coloring Contest: Ambassadors will also be sponsoring a coloring contest for our students. Coloring sheets will be distributed to students and are due March 28th. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each grade following Easter. This is an optional activity for students.

2023-2024 Yearbooks - Order Online NOW

The window to order a yearbook is now open! Our yearbook includes student pictures from preschool through 8th grade as well as candid photos that are taken throughout the school year. The cost is \$12 per book, and the books will arrive before the end of the school year.

Orders need to be placed by April 5th using the link below:

<https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09827506>

YEARBOOK

SJB Parish News



Rise
An All Parish Retreat
April 12 & 13

- This parish-wide retreat is open to all adult parishioners
- We will have Adoration, Reconciliation, Eucharist, inspiring presentations, time for reflection, and more!
- Continental Breakfast and lunch provided on Saturday
- Retreat concludes with 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday
- \$20 Registration fee until April 1 then price goes up to \$40 until registration closes April 8

Speakers:
Bishop Williams
Ryan O'Hara
Father Paul

Schedule
April 12
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
April 13
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
(Childcare available)

Register online at stjohnnyb.com or scan the QR code

[Register and/or Learn More](#)



Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024

10:00 am Blessing - West Lot

Egg hunt:

K & under at school playground

1st & up at Vet's Park

Games, Crafts, Goodie Bags

Refreshments for sale by 8th

Graders for D.C. Trip

Bring your own basket or bag for the the hunt.
The Egg Hunt will be held outside so please dress for the weather! The rest will be indoors.

Children must be accompanied by adult

Questions? Email
livermontj@stjohnnyb.org

Volunteers Needed

OCIA – School Candidates

Our preschool and school community is blest with parents seeking to become Catholic and fellow parents supporting them in the sponsor role. Please keep our candidates and their sponsors in your prayers as they prepare for full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30 at 8pm in the Church. For more information on the Becoming Catholic OCIA program, contact Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship at finkj@stjohnnyb.org



SCHOOL CANDIDATES

Back row: Mike Person, Aaron Knight, Dustin Allen
Front row: Ryan Reddy, Laura Pitzl, Crystal Yates, Betsey Krohn. Missing Tim Hardy



SCHOOL CANDIDATES & SPONSORS

Back row: Ryan Reddy (can), Ryan Meyer (spon), Mike Person (can), Ben Stori (spon), Aaron Knight (can), Dustin Allen (can), Don Brown (spon), Ricky Longnecker (spon)
Front Row: Jacinta Guzik (spon), Beth Griffith Cleary (spon), Laura Pitzl (can), Crystal Yates (can), Betsey Krohn (can), Tim Hardy (can), Shelley Paige (spon).

Restore to Gather Campaign

The Restore to Gather Campaign, which includes funding for several school projects and a new School Operations Endowment Fund, is nearing our \$5 million goal, thanks to many parishioners and school parents who have pledged their support. You will soon hear more about upcoming improvements and repairs to our school restrooms, playground, and carpeting.



HOW TO FULFILL YOUR PLEDGE

Online: Select "DONATE" at the top of our parish website (www.stjohnnb.com), choose "Donate Online" and the "Restore to Gather Capital Campaign" Fund, then complete the online form.

US mail: Complete your check payable to **St. John the Baptist** (memo line: *Restore to Gather*) and mail to the parish office – 835 2nd Ave NW, New Brighton, MN 55112.

Sunday Mass collection: Contributions may be brought to Sunday Mass. For your convenience, *Restore to Gather* envelopes can be found on the campaign display in the Plaza.

Donor-advised funds: You may also contribute gifts from donor-advised funds. Contact Mary May, Director of Development, at 651-633-8333, ext. 1253, or email maym@stjohnnyb.org with questions.

We are still in the process of closing the gap to our \$5 million goal. If you would like to make a commitment to our campaign, you can make your pledge online by visiting our parish website: <https://stjohnnb.com/donate/campaign/> Then click on the "Pledge Your Support Here" button.

Youth Events at SJB

March 22nd Middle School Youth Group Cancelled!

We are sorry to inform you that this month's middle school youth group is cancelled. However, we encourage your middle school student to attend the Middle School Good Friday Retreat on March 29th. Details below.

Middle School Good Friday Retreat

Friday, March 29th, 2024, 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm at St. John's

The retreat will begin with the 3:00 Good Friday Service at St. John's. Your middle schooler is welcome to sit with their family or in the reserved section. After the service, we will have a brief orientation in the youth room followed by small groups, a meatless and simple dinner, a presentation on Good Friday, a special Good Friday Procession for youth ministry, a rosary and divine mercy chaplet and closing small group. The retreat will end with Tenebrae at 8:00pm. Again, middle schoolers are invited to sit with their families or in the reserved section. We will not be showing the film, *Passion of Christ*, as has been done in the past.



Youth 365 Resurrection Feast

Sunday, April 7th 9:00am-1:00pm in St. Joseph's Hall

All are welcome to St. John's the Sunday after Easter, April 7th for a resurrection feast in support of youth ministry. All proceeds (free will offering) will go to the Youth 365 fund which provides scholarships for camp, helps to provide quality resources to our youth ministry programs and updates to the youth room! The feast will be from 9:00am to 1:00pm and will serve a variety of breakfast foods.