PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

September 3, 2026

St John the Baptist CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From the Principal

Dear SJB Families,

Greetings from the Principal's Office!

What a wonderful Meet My Teacher Night we had last night! Thank you to all of the families who joined us. It was so wonderful to welcome our students back into the building and see all of their smiling faces. After a quiet summer, the halls were once again filled with energy, excitement, and the sounds of our SJB community. It was a great reminder of just how much we have missed having our students here!

We are officially in the home stretch, and we are so excited for school to begin on Tuesday, September 8th! Our teachers and staff are ready, our classrooms are prepared, and we can't wait to welcome our students back for another great year at SJB.

Please join us for our first All-School Mass of the year on Wednesday, September 9 at 8:30am in the church. What a beautiful way to begin our school year together as a faith community.

Upcoming Events

First Day of School	**Sept 8**
Middle School Information Night for parents	**Sept 9**
Grade 5 Information Night for parents	**Sept 10**
Grades K-4 Information Night for parents	**Sept 22**
Grade 5 Eagle Bluff Trip	**Sept 21-23**
SJB Parish FallFest	**Sept 25-27**
Marathon for Non-Public Education	**Oct 3**

Quick Links

- 2026-2027 District Bus Registration
- 2026-2027 School Supply List
- 2026-2027 School Calendar
- Preschool Page
- Virtus Information
- SJB Spirit Wear Store

School Safe Environment Coordinator (Virtus): Alison Wacek waceka@stjohnnyb.org | 651-633-1522 x1127

Important Dates Coming Up

I wanted to highlight a few important dates on the calendar, including a couple that have recently had changes to the date or time:

Wednesday, September 9th - Middle School Parent Night
6:30pm in St. Joe's Hall

Thursday, September 10th - 5th Grade Parent Night
6:00pm in the 5th grade classrooms

Tuesday, September 22nd - Kindergarten-4th Grade Parent Night
6:30–7:30pm in classrooms
For K-4 Parent Night, teachers will offer the same presentation twice: 6:30-7:00pm and 7:00-7:30pm. This allows families with children in multiple grades to attend more than one classroom presentation. If you have more than two children in grades K-4, we recommend attending the presentations for your two oldest children.

Please mark these dates on your calendar, we look forward to seeing you at these upcoming evenings!

As we head into the final weekend before school begins, I hope you all have a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable Labor Day weekend. Take some time to enjoy these last few days of summer, and then get ready, we can't wait to see everyone back at SJB on Tuesday!

God bless,
Anna Nagle
Principal

General School Information

SCHOOL TIMES/DAILY SCHEDULE

* School hours are 7:55am - 2:30pm
* Car line drop off is at the Flagpole door #6, Flagpole door opens at 7:30am and close at 7:50am. Please do not wait to get to the door but have your child get out of the car as soon as you stop anywhere along the playground - there is a sidewalk that runs the length of the playground for them to walk safely to the door. This will help keep the car line moving and shorten wait times for everyone.
* Students arriving before 7:35am will be supervised in the gym until 7:35am when they will head to their classrooms or will go to the cafeteria for breakfast.
* Any students arriving after 7:50am must be driven around the building and dropped off and checked in at the school office (door #12).
* Any parent who would like to walk their child to the school doors should park in the Church lot or on the west side of 2nd Ave (across from SJB park). Please DO NOT park on the street along the playground - this area is for drop-off only. Extra staff will be on hand for the first few days to help students to find their classroom in the morning.
* Afternoon car pick up will be from the main Church parking lot. Please park facing out to give better sight lines when leaving the lot to help keep everyone safe. Teachers will walk students to the sidewalk in front of the Church. Please exit your car and walk up to the top of the lot to meet your child.

BUSES

* District bus passes come from the Mounds View District Transportation Office. If you are within the MV district and do not have a bus pass, your student cannot ride the bus on the first day of school. Bus passes will be mailed to all students who are registered. If you still need to sign up for district busing, please complete the application: MV District Busing Registration
* If you are not registered for the Blaine charter bus, your child may NOT ride the bus on the first day of school. Register for the Blaine charter bus here: SJB - Blaine Charter Bus Registration
* **EXPECT DELAYS TO THE SCHEDULED BUS TIMES THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF SCHOOL** - it can take several days to work through any issues with busing and get the routes down.
* **Keep this phone number handy: 651-621-8900.** This is the phone number for the American Student Transportation Bus Company. If your child's bus does not show, is late, etc. during the school year, this is the number you should call to determine where the bus might be. This is the direct dispatch number and will allow you to get a quick response from the driver. District bus information should also show on Bus Status section of the Mounds View District Transportation page.

ABSENCES

If your child will be absent or late for ANY reason (illness, vacation, appointment, etc.) please let the school office know by 8:30am. This needs to be done for **each** day the student is absent. For a known multiple day absence (for a vacation, for example) one call or email with all dates of the absence is sufficient.

Attendance line: 651-633-2211 ext. 1119 leave message on absences.
You may also email the school office (thienesj@stjohnnyb.org).

CHANGES TO SCHEDULE MID-DAY

If you need to change your child's dismissal schedule at any point during the school day, please contact the school office at 651-633-1522 ext. 1118. You may also email Joy Thienes at thienesj@stjohnnyb.org. Teachers may or may not be able to access email or voicemail during the school day so contacting the school office is the best way to ensure your child gets the message.

HEALTH OFFICE/MEDICATIONS

If your child needs to take any medications during the school day or needs emergency meds (epi-pen, inhaler, etc.) or over-the-counter meds (ibuprofen, Benadryl, etc.) available if needed, please bring those medications to Meet My Teacher Night or to the school office. Complete the appropriate form to include with the medications.

Prescription Medication Form Over-the-Counter Medication Form

Note: SJB does NOT supply over-the-counter meds. All medications need to be in original packaging or prescription bottle and must be labeled with your child's name.

School Spirit Wear - 15% Discount Code thru Sep 7

Branding Wearhouse is offering a 2 week discount code for our school community on your SJB spirit wear purchases to start the school year. Place an order from August 24th through September 7th and enter the code below to receive 15% off your order.

Branding Wearhouse Discount Code: **STJBB2S**

The store link may be found on our school website under School Life or on the Quick Links list or by clicking below

SJB School Spirit Wear Ordering Link

J-Care for the 2026-2027 School Year

J-Care is a non-contracted before/after school and summer school-age program for students in kindergarten through 8th grade. Our mission is to provide high quality child care at an affordable price in an engaging, active, and comfortable environment while maintaining a safe and JOY-filled place for your child(ren). J-Care provides homework support; physical, recreational, and educational activities; interactive games; field trips; swim trips; crafts; and a healthy snack and milk to participants each day.

On regular school days, J-Care is available 6:30am – 7:45am and 2:30pm – 6:00pm

For those will or may use J-Care during the 2026-2027 school year, please complete the registration form and return this form at Meet My Teacher Night on Wednesday, September 2nd or to the school office at any time during the school year. Find this form and more information about J-Care on the J-Care Page of the SJB website.

2026-2027 School Year J-Care Registration 2026-2027 J-Care Handbook

Questions? Contact MacKenzie Kantor - kantorm@stjohnnyb.org or via the J-Care cell phone 651-261-9113

Want to be a Substitute Teacher at SJB?

Are you or someone you know interested in being a substitute teacher at SJB? We are looking for substitute teachers for the upcoming school year for all grades.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete the following interest form: Substitute Application or contact Mrs. Anna Nagle at naglea@stjohnnyb.org

Volunteering at SJB and Virtus

As part of the tuition agreement, each SJB family with students in grades K-8 are asked to volunteer for a minimum of 25 hours throughout the school year. These hours can be completed through school and/or parish activities as our hope is that you find ways to be involved in our entire SJB community.

Volunteer Tracking: Please keep track of the hours you volunteer throughout the school year. You may use the Volunteer Tracking Form or any other way that makes sense for you and your family. We will ask for hours to be submitted in the spring of 2027, but if you complete your hours early, they may be turned in to the school office at any time.

Virtus: Please note that any volunteer activities that involve our school students require the completion of VIRTUS. Virtus is an Archdiocesan requirement for all employees and volunteers who interact with minors. Volunteers are required to complete the **"Essential Three"** requirements (which must be renewed every three years), The E3 This includes completion of the VIRTUS training as well as submission of the Volunteer Application and a Background Check.

Contact Alison Wacek with any questions: waceka@stjohnnyb.org or 651-633-1522 x 1127

Volunteer Opportunities

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children that is rooted in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. The program operates from the philosophy that the child is already in a relationship with God and seeks to nurture that relationship through the proclamation and pondering of God's Word by utilizing a carefully prepared environment called an "atrium." The atrium is full of beautiful hand-made child-sized materials that help the child and their catechist to prayerfully enter deeply into the essential mysteries of the Catholic faith.

As we prepare for the year ahead, we are seeking assistants for the kindergarten sections of CGS. Assistants aid the catechist in providing a calm, prayerful, and loving environment. The kindergarten sessions run from 1:15-2:15pm each day of the week. The ideal assistant would be able to commit to coming on the same day each week from late September through mid-May. All training for assistants is provided.

Please contact Rachael Wratkowski at wratkowskir@stjohnnyb.org with interest or for more information.

MS ELECTIVES: Do you have a special talent, hobby, or skill you'd love to share with our middle school students? Can you 3D print? Build something? Cook, create, craft, teach a skill, or share a hobby? This is a wonderful opportunity to expose our students to a variety of new experiences and interests! We'd love to have you! On Friday afternoons during elective time, we're looking for parents to lead fun, hands-on small group electives for eight weeks each trimester, from 1:46–2:26PM each Friday. Contact Mrs. Jenny Carroll at carrollj@stjohnnyb.org for more information

VOLLEYBALL CONCESSION STAND: Volleyball season is just around the corner, and we are looking for families who would be willing to help with the concession stand during volleyball games this fall! It's a great way to support our athletes and spend some time with other SJB families! Contact Mrs. Jenny Carroll at carrollj@stjohnnyb.org for more information or to sign-up to help!

Only One Thing is Necessary

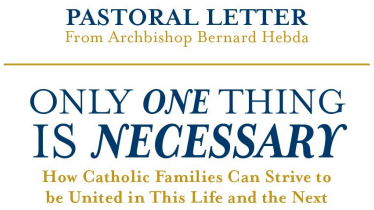
September: Jesus at the Center

Virtue: Hope - Trusting in God's loving plan

Theme: Give Jesus First Place

Focus: Place Christ at the center of your life.

Feast of the Month and Saint: Saints Louis and Zelie Martin



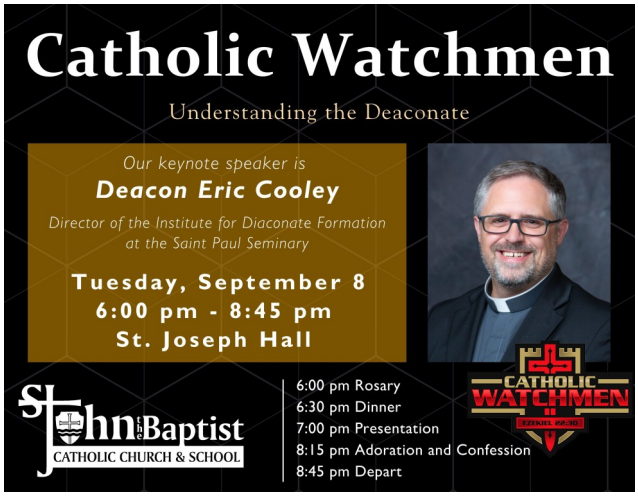
Pastoral Letter Connection: “Nobody journeys alone. No genuine vocation originates simply from out own idea of self-fulfillment or self-determination. It comes from our Creator. If we are able to accept that being a faithful catholic parent or grandparent or son or daughter is a calling from God, and that it originates in His plan, we can be confident that He will both bestow on us the grace that we need to live out that vocation and to empower our cooperation.” (6)

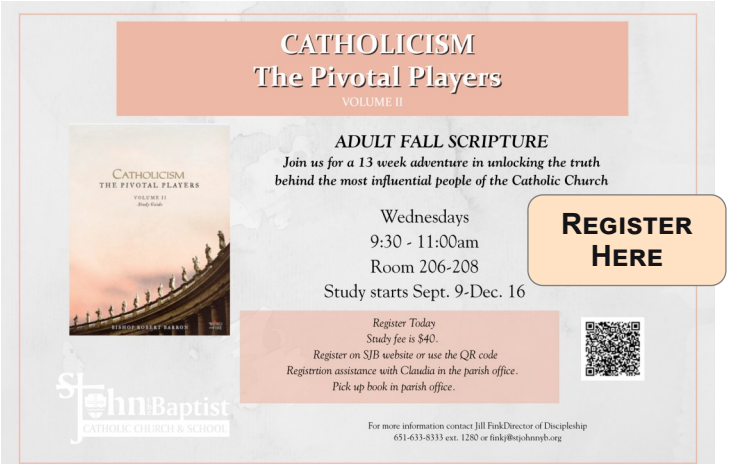
Week 1: Create a Prayer Space

◊ Activity: Set up a small prayer area in our home with a Bible, candle, crucifix or image of a saint.

◊ Prayer: “Jesus, help our family place you at the center of our lives.”

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Hebda:
Only One Thing is Necessary





Sunday Mass Time Change

On Sunday, September 13, the evening Holy Mass will be moving back to 5:30 pm. Please make note of this change on your calendars and remind your family and friends. It is always a terrible feeling coming to Holy Mass late, so please plan accordingly and find the best time for you to come.

Mark Your Calendars for FallFest 2026!

Saturday, September 19th: Pickleball Tournament

Friday, September 25th: Pig Roast, Grill the Priests, Music by The Good, The Bad and The Funky at 7:00 pm

Saturday, September 26th: Fun Run, Bags Tournament, Music by GB Leighton and Fever Pitch, and Fireworks

Sunday, September 27th: Booya! Polka Mass, Purse BINGO, and Grand Raffle

Questions? Email: fallfest@stjohnnyb.org

Car Show: Register your classic car for the FallFest Car Show on Saturday, Sept 26th from 2:00 - 5:00pm. Contact Tom Domini at Tedomini@comcast.net or 651-233-3271

FallFest Fun Run registration is now open! Sign up HERE to participate on Saturday, Sept. 25th.

Sponsorship Opportunities for FallFest 2026! Sponsors for St. John the Baptist's FallFest are a vital part of this annual celebration. They help cover expenses and support an incredible three-day festival filled with fun and fellowship. Click HERE to learn more. **Questions?** Contact the Director of Development, Mary May, at 651-633-8333, ext. 1253, or maym@stjohnnyb.org. Thank you for your generous support!

Donations Needed

Bottles for Bar Games: Bottle donations needed for the FallFest Bar Games! We are once again collecting donations of liquor and wine bottles for FallFest. All bottles must be unopened. Donations should be labeled "FallFest Bar Games" and dropped off at the parish office.

Kids Games: Nonperishable foods (chips, cookies, cereal, pop tarts, pudding), candy, toys under $2.50, Gatorade, Powerade, Prime, and Sparkling Ice bottles. Monetary donations also accepted.

FallFest Silent Auction: Create a basket with your family, ministry group, or commission. Donate single items that can be combined into a basket, or give a financial contribution to be used to complement a basket - ideas include restaurant gift cards, popular electronics, wine/liquor, housewares, or tickets to future theater, music, or sporting events. Use your imagination and get creative! **Please remember that all items must be new.** Contact Rita Arndorfer at arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org for more information.

St. John's FallFest