PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 19, 2026

St John the Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

Dear SJB Families,

Greetings from the Principal's Office!

As we enter this season of thankfulness, I am reminded of the many blessings that surround our SJB community. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I hope each of our families finds time to slow down, gather together, and reflect on the people and moments we are most grateful for.

No Busing Days Next Week

A quick reminder that we will only have school Monday and Tuesday, November 23-24 next week. There will be no busing for our Mounds View bus riders on those days, while Blaine bus routes will run as usual.

Campus Safety Update

As many of you are aware, we experienced a concerning incident during dismissal on Wednesday. Since our initial communication, we have learned additional information that I would like to share. The individual involved is a relative of one of our current students and had previously picked up a different relative from SJB in past years. He was not an authorized pickup person for this student this year. The student he approached during dismissal looked very similar to his relative, and he called her by his relative's name before realizing she was not the child he was looking for. Thankfully, no student left with him. While we have learned that this situation involved an individual experiencing mental health challenges, that context does not lessen the seriousness of the interaction or our responsibility to maintain a safe environment for every student. The New Brighton Police Department responded, and the individual has been formally trespassed from our campus and is not permitted to return. We have also communicated directly with the family, who is in agreement that he will not be authorized to pick up their child moving forward. We have increased adult supervision around the perimeter of our campus during dismissal for this week and next week and will continue to evaluate our safety procedures for additional opportunities to strengthen our practices.

I am incredibly grateful for the way our SJB community comes together, especially during challenging moments. The attentiveness of our parents, the dedication of our staff, and the partnership between our school, parish, and families are what make this such a special community. Thank you for your continued trust, support, and commitment to one another. It is a blessing to be part of a community where we truly look out for each other and work together to ensure every child is known, valued, and loved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 23-24
No District Busing
Nov 25-27
No School – Thanksgiving Break
Dec 1
PTO Non-Uniform Day for Teachers
Dec 1-2
Reconciliation, gr 3-8
Dec 4
End of 1st Trimester
Dec 10
Band Concert
Dec 11
Preschool – gr 2 Christmas Concert
Dec 17
Gr 3-8 Christmas Concert
Dec 21-Jan 1
No School for Christmas Break

IMPORTANT LINKS

2026-2027 School Calendars

Preschool Page

Virtus Information

SJB Spirit Wear Store

S JB School Amazon Wish List



Happy Thanksgiving!

From the entire staff at St. John the Baptist Church and School, we wish our SJB families a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving! For those of you traveling to celebrate, we pray for safe travels. For all our families, we pray for meaningful time with family and friends, and many blessings during this Thanksgiving and always.

Anna Nagle
Principal

School Safe Environment Coordinator (Virtus): Alison Wacek waceka@stjohnnyb.org 651-633-1522 x 1127

No District Busing – Monday and Tuesday, November 23-24



Next week on Monday and Tuesday, November 23 and 24, there will be a No-District Busing day for our students. MV schools are not in session so all students who ride the district buses will need transportation to and from school on both days. Drop off will be in the north /gym lot beginning at 7:30am and pickup will be from the main Church lot at 2:30pm. Preschool drop-off and pickup will stay the same and the two SJB charter buses to the Blaine area will run normally.

Vision and Hearing Screening – December 1st

Vision and hearing screening will take place at SJB the morning of Tuesday, December 1st. Students in kindergarten, grade 1 and all students new to SJB will have both vision and hearing tested on this day. Students in grades 3 and 5 will have their vision tested only.



Nursing students and MV Health professionals will be performing the screenings, however, we could use a couple of parent volunteers to assist with keeping the schedule moving and being "runners" getting students to/from classrooms as necessary. If you are up-to-date on Virtus training and are able to help us on December 1st from approximately 8:00am until 11:30am, please contact Joy Thienes in the school office at **thienesj@stjohnnyb.org**

If you would like your student tested and they are not in the grades listed above, please contact the school office or your child's teacher.

Last weekend to order Butter Braids - Orders due Sunday!

Help support the 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip by purchasing Butter Braids. Orders will be accepted through Sunday, November 22nd.

Order online using the QR code or click the order link. We also have paper forms available (with payment via cash or check) in the school office or at the parish welcome desk.

Orders will be available for pick-up after Mass on Saturday, December 12th from 5:30pm - 6:00pm or Sunday, December 13th for 30 minutes after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses.

Please reach out to Jenny Carroll with any questions, carrollj@stjohnnyb.org.

Order Here

Branding Wearhouse BLACK FRIDAY SALE for SJB Spirit Wear!

Branding Wearhouse is holding a Black Friday Weekend Sale! All orders $50 or more placed from November 26th – November 30th will be 20%. Use code BFW2026 at checkout to receive the discount. Offer valid on new orders only placed between 11/26/26 - 11/30/26.

Note: The last day they are accepting holiday/Christmas orders is Sunday, 12/6/26 so if you are looking to order SJB spirit wear for a Christmas gift, be sure to order early!



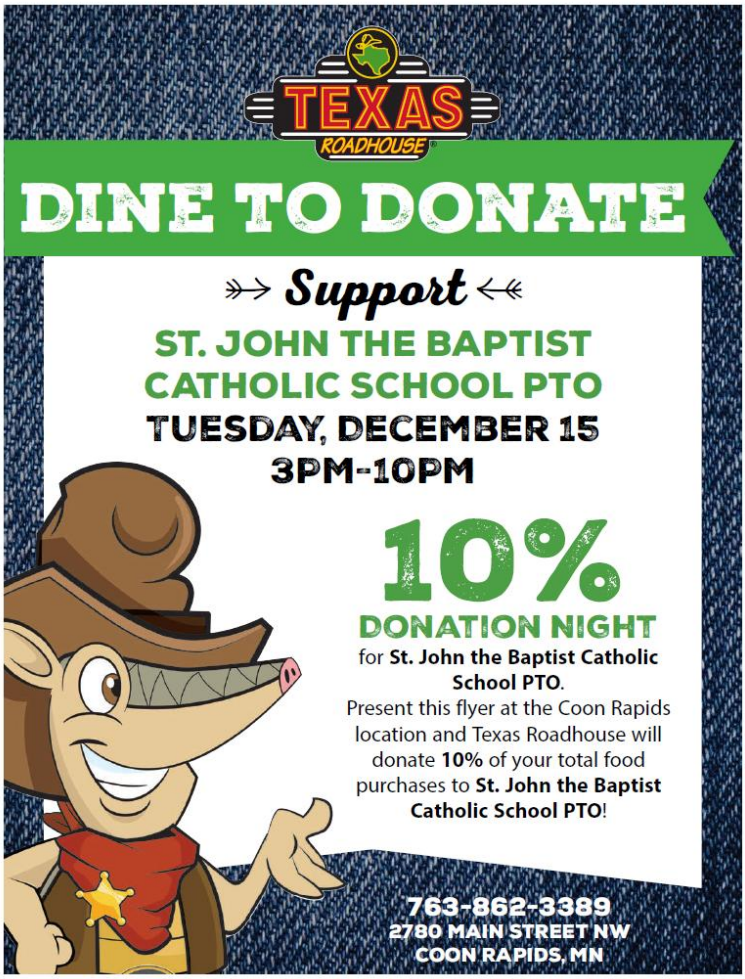
SJB Christmas Shop 2026 is coming soon!

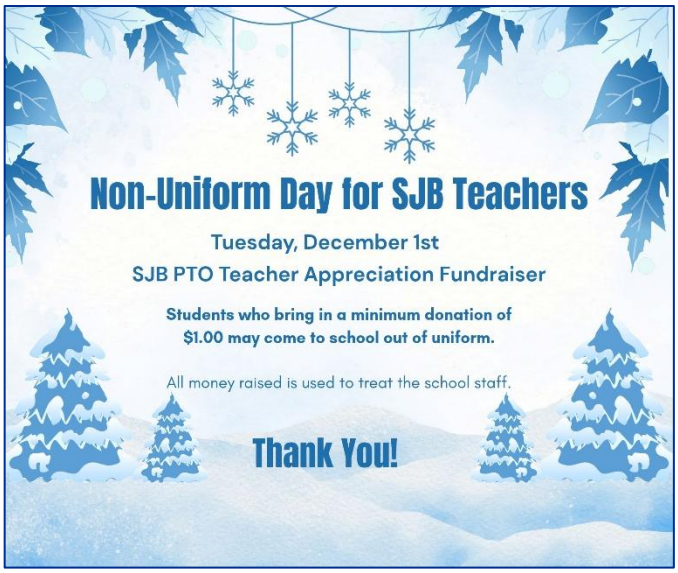
Christmas Shop Volunteer SignUp



Our SJB Christmas Shop will be open on Tuesday, December 8th, Wednesday, December 9th and Thursday, December 10th in the Science Lab during school hours. The SJB Christmas Shop is run by the PTO and allows our students (in grades K-8) the opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for their family and friends. Each classroom will visit the Christmas Shop during the 3 days it is open. This is an optional activity, but one that students really enjoy!

We need volunteers to help students shop, keep items stocked and to cleanup. Click on the sign-up link to see if a shift works for you to be here to help. **All volunteers must have completed and be up-to-date on their Virtus training**.





No Afternoon J-Care on December 11

On Friday, December 11, there will be NO after-school J-Care offered.

Please plan accordingly.

Questions? Contact Miss MacKenzie Kantor at kantorm@stjohnnyb.org

SJB Parish News

Only One Thing Is Necessary

HOW CATHOLIC FAMILIES CAN STRIVE TO BE UNITED IN THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT

SJB Plan 2026-27

November – Gratitude and Trust in God

Virtue: Humility – Accepting your limitations and God-given talents

Theme: Recognizing God's Blessings

Focus: Gratitude helps us recognize God's presence in daily life.

Feast of the Month: Christ the King (November 21-22) – Place all trust in Christ who is King of heaven and earth.

Pastoral Letter Connection: *"From Sunday to Sunday, daily Mass to daily Mass, sacrament to sacrament, we center ourselves on Christ, that 'one true thing.' We quiet our souls. We sense the stirrings and nudges of the Holy Spirit."* (23)

November Week 3: Thanksgiving Prayer

- Activity: Before the Thanksgiving meal, invite each person to share one thing they want to thank God for.
- Car or Dinner Conversation: How has God blessed our family this year?

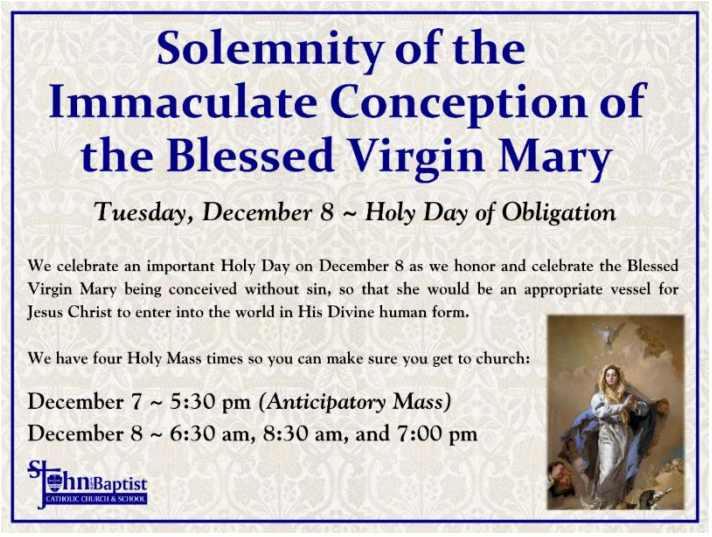
November Week 2: Service to Others

- Activity: Write a thank-you note to someone who has helped your family
- Donate socks or underwear to the St Vincent DePaul drive. Collection bins may be found in St Paul Plaza

November Week 1: Gratitude Jar and Prayer of Thanksgiving

- Activity: Each member of the family can write one blessing on a small piece of paper and place it in a jar each day this week.
- Read and pray together Psalm 100.
- Read one thing from the gratitude jar each night at dinner.





St Vincent DePaul Sock Drive

As we enter the season of giving thanks for our many blessings, we invite you to share those blessings with neighbors in need by donating **new men's and women's socks and underwear** for the homeless.

Collection Bins: Located at all church entrances starting this weekend.

Drive Dates: Saturday, November 14 through Sunday, November 29.



Thank you so much for your continued generosity and consideration!

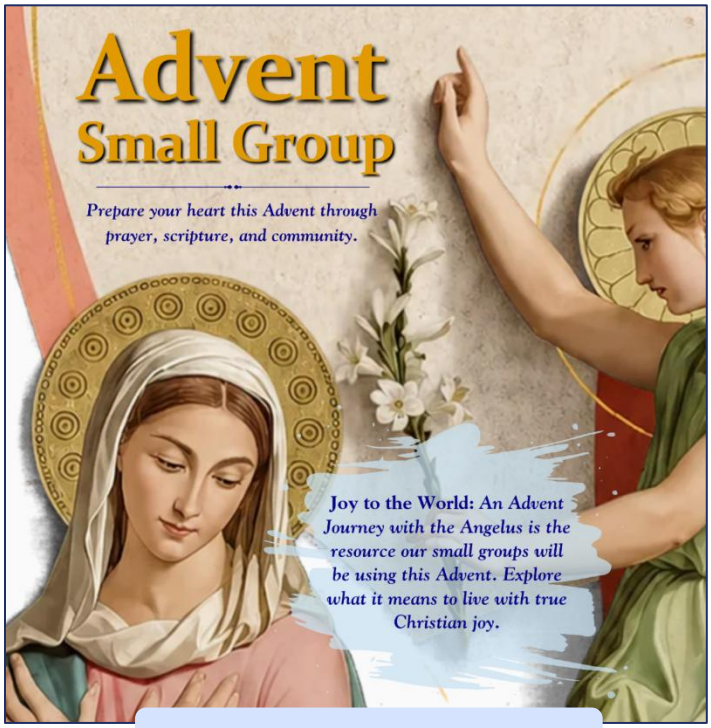
. *Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for Me."* Mt 25:40

Thanksgiving Collection: This coming Thanksgiving's collection is one of two times each year our St. Vincent de Paul group is the beneficiary of the money collected at Holy Mass. Over the years, St. Vincent de Paul has distributed thousands of dollars to the needy in our parish and in our greater parish community. Thank you for your generous financial support over all these years that allow us to carry out Jesus' call to serve the poor and needy among us.

Thanksgiving Hospitality Volunteers Wanted



SJB parish is looking for volunteers to help with Thanksgiving hospitality on Thursday, November 26 after the 9:00 am Mass. Start your Thanksgiving with Mass and then Commitment is about 90 minutes after Mass and includes informing kitchen when food is running low, pouring beverages and cleaning tables. If you are interested, please reach out to Kathy Wiggin at wiggink@stjohnnyb.org or text 651-746-9637. Thank you! Note: These hours may be counted toward your volunteer commitment.



Join a Small Group Today!



Order of Christian Initiation of Children



OCIC is the Order of Christian Initiation of Children for children in grades 3-8 who would like to become Catholic through the sacraments of Baptism (or if baptized, the Sacrament of Reconciliation) and Eucharist (Holy Communion). Classes will begin in January on Sunday. Parents accompany the child to the sessions. Reception of the Sacrament is in April.

If you are interested in OCIC for this year, contact Jill Fink, Director of Discipleship at finkj@stjohnnyb.org or 651.633.8333 ext. 1280



Extreme Faith Camp is an amazing week of deepening our relationship with the Lord, adventure, fun, new experiences, color wars, prayer, and Catholic Christian community!

It would make a wonderful Christmas gift for your child, grandchild, or godchild!

EFC dates for 2027 are June 14-18.

