

# St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

## Jet Gazette Newsletter

### December 6, 2019

#### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. AMEN*



#### News and Views from Mr. Schmit

Happy St. Nicholas Day! Our Student Council members were able to go around and share stories of St. Nicholas with our primary students. I enjoy seeing our middle school students excited to be with our younger students, to keep our school traditions alive and well!

During this weekend's Gospel we will hear St. John the Baptist proclaiming, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his paths." During Advent we are called to prepare our hearts for Christ. St. John the Baptist wasn't quoting the prophet Isaiah to get his audience to prepare for a one time thing. We need to take advantage of this holy time to prepare our hearts, not for a one day celebration, but a life in Christ, lived to the fullest each and every day. The dedicated staff of St. John School incorporates this preparation into their lessons and daily interactions with our students. The remaining two weeks before our Christmas Break are packed with all kinds of activities, on top of the day to day classroom learning. Even though there is so much going on, our teachers and staff will continue to help our students "prepare the way of the Lord" by creating lessons about the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. John the Evangelist, along with creating opportunities for giving to those in need.

Even though we have so many things happening over the next couple of weeks, our teachers are still focused on instructing your children and keeping all of our students engaged. This past week, I was able to participate in a meeting with our teachers on our Literacy Committee. It was encouraging to witness and be a part of a collaborative effort to create a Literacy Plan for our kindergarten through 5th grade learners. This comprehensive plan will allow our teachers to reach all students, giving better direction and flow to how literacy is taught, promoted and supported here at St. John School.

We have so many things to look forward to next week. Our All School mass will shift to Monday as we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please come and worship with us. Adding to the excitement of the week, our Drama Club will take to the stage on Thursday for two performances.

Thank you to Krystal Payne for planning and directing our Santa's Workshop. A special thank you also goes out to Craig Payne and the host of parents who helped make our Santa's workshop a festive success! Our students and staff enjoyed seeing and spending time with Mr. and Mrs. Claus while being able to spend your money.

Finally, I would like to thank our Knights of Columbus for generously donating to the St. John School Alumni Annual Drive. Their generous support will help the Drive support our school's technological improvement.

Please keep the students, teachers, staff, and families of St. John School in your prayers.

God bless,

Mr. Schmit

# PARENT CALENDAR



## December

Sat	7	Santa Shop open from 10 AM to 3 PM
Mon	9	All School Mass for Immaculate Conception
Mon	9	Merry Mail Begins—see article for information
Tues	10	<b>Happy Birthday Mrs. Ratke!</b>
Tues	10	Ugly Sweater Day Fundraiser
Wed	11	<b>NO ALL SCHOOL MASS</b>
Thurs	12	<b>Happy Birthday Father Ryan!</b>
Thurs	12	Drama Club Performance 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM
Fri	13	<b>Happy Birthday Mrs. Davidson!</b>
Fri	13	Movie Night—Polar Express
Mon	16	NJHS Candy Cane Sale begins
Tues	17	<b>Christmas Program 6:30 PM</b>
Thurs	19	Prayer Service-2:45 PM hosted by 1st grade

## Merry Mail

It's almost Merry Mail time!! Next week, St. John School will have their very own post office staffed by the 2nd and 3rd grade classes. This is an opportunity for students, parents, and staff to send KIND letters, cards, and messages to each other.

Stamps will be sold each morning for 10¢ each. Letters will be delivered to classrooms each day. Letters mailed after 12 PM may be delivered the following day.

Letters should be addressed like this:

FIRST AND LAST NAME  
GRADE

We encourage families to send in letters to be delivered to their children. Everyone loves to receive a personal handwritten note! Please feel free to send your letter and your money for stamps to the office and we will be sure to get it to the post office in time!



All money collected will be used to support the St. John Parish Giving Tree.



## SJS has (Christmas) Spirit!

Check out the following details for these holiday out of uniform opportunities!

### STUDENT COUNCIL FUNDRAISER

On Tuesday, December 10th, students may pay \$1 for the opportunity to wear Christmas Spiritwear of their choice. All proceeds will go to support Student Council's Adopt a Family fund.



## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK DECEMBER 16-20

### Monday

#### HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS

Make your SJS uniform look jolly with Christmas accessories. Wear your crazy Christmas socks, reindeer antlers, Santa hats, etc.

### Tuesday

#### SILENT NIGHT

Wear your Christmas pajamas to school.

### Wednesday

#### DECK THE HALLS

Come to school all decked out in your Christmas best.

### Thursday

#### MELE KALIKIMAKA

Where do you want to go for Christmas vacation? Dreaming of warm weather? Wear your Hawaiian shirt. Going skiing? Wear your flannels and fuzzy scarves.

### Friday

#### WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wear the Christmas Spiritwear of your choice. Wear ugly Christmas sweaters, Christmas movie characters, or Christmas shirts to show your Christmas spirit!

## You're Invited...



Please join us on Thursday, December 12th as the St. John Drama Club presents The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. This will be the perfect way to kickoff the holidays. Performances are at 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM in the Father Harvey Activity Center.

Next week, an email about Makers Fair will be sent out. If your child was unable to attend Monday's meeting, please be sure he or she stops by the office to pick up information.

## Christmas Program

Our Annual Christmas Program will be held on Tuesday, December 17th in the Church for all students preschool through 8th grade. The program will begin at 6:30 PM with a reception to follow. Families should arrive at 6:15 PM. Teachers will communicate where your child should be dropped off within the church to sit with their class.

Dress Code for the Christmas Program is Sunday Best. No jeans or t-shirts please. Please keep modesty in mind as the performance takes place in the church. For example, no short skirts or dresses and no spaghetti straps, please.



PLEASE SAVE

The STEAM classes are in need of empty water bottles and 2-liter bottles for an big upcoming project. We will need a lot of them! Please send in your empty and CLEANED OUT bottles to the office.



## ST. JOHN JETS ATHLETIC NEWS



If you are looking for volunteer hours and are able to help with concessions at volleyball games, please visit this SignUp Genius link for more info:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B48AAAD29A5FF2-volleyball>

### Upcoming Athletic Events



#### 7th/8th Grade Volleyball

**Dec. 7** FACSL Tournament  
**Dec. 11** vs. Holy Rosary/Bishop Kelley  
**Dec. 14** vs. St. Robert/St. John Vianney

8:30 AM @ Powers  
5 PM @ St. John  
9 AM @ Powers

### Children's Christmas Party

All St. John families are invited to bring your children to see Santa at the Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 15th, 2019 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM in the Knights of Columbus Hall. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. There will be entertainment, presents, treats, and fun!!



### AUCTION 2020 UPDATE

From Auction Chair Kelly Ahn

Lights! Camera! AUCTION!!! will be a night among the stars!! We'll roll out the red carpet for YOU, St. John School's biggest fans. It will be a fun-filled, fundraising evening for you to dress as your favorite movie star and SHINE like a Hollywood celebrity! Prepare for games, prizes, food, and drink all benefiting our students, teachers and staff during this star-studded event of the year!! Please join us for a night at the movies.

### Volunteer Hour Opportunity

Looking to earn parish volunteer hours? There are a couple scheduled dates for preparing the altar for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

**Mon Dec 16 (2 PM to 9 PM)** They will be preparing for Christmas.

Bring any and all helpers you'd like. Stay for as little or as long as you'd like. We will need many hands to assist with the giant trees and lights and all the decorations. It's going to be beautiful. Please enter from the south doors, Joseph's side of the church, for any of these dates. Put us in your calendars if you can make it a part of your Christmas participation.

**Lights  
Camera  
AUCTION**

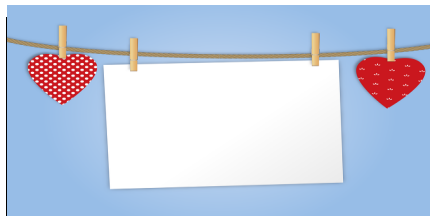
**Coming soon: February 22nd @ 5pm**

**St John School Presents:  
Lights Camera Auction**

**Dress as your favorite movie character or evening attire**

More Details to Follow

Please contact Kelly Ahn ([kahn@stout.com](mailto:kahn@stout.com)) with any questions.



# ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

## Thank you:

- To Krystal and Craig Payne for chairing Santa Shop. What a merry experience you created for the kids!
- To all the parent volunteers who helped the Santa Shop to run smoothly. We appreciate you!
- To the St. John Educational Foundation for hosting our Annual Tree Lighting and helping us to remember and honor our loved ones.
- To Mrs. Stickel for helping our students make ornaments for the Foundation Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- To Mrs. Davidson for preparing cookies for our Annual Tree Lighting.
- To Mrs. Wright for playing the piano for the Annual Tree Lighting.
- To Student Council for telling us the story of St. Nicholas



## Prayers:

- For Linda Logan, grandmother of Ella Yake, who is ill.

If you have a prayer request for the Jet Gazette, please let Mrs. Haiss know.



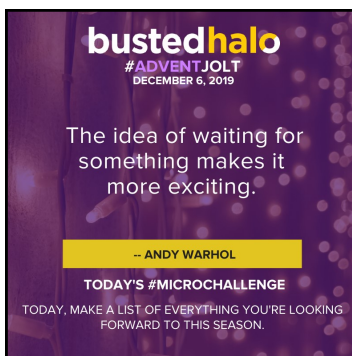
## Building Foundations of Faith

As Catholic parents, we are called to provide moral education and spiritual growth for our children. What better example than to learn and grow in faith yourself? Visit this Jet Gazette feature weekly for thoughts, articles, and tips to strengthen and deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith.



How is Advent different from Christmas? Watch "[Advent in Two Minutes](#)" to find out. In addition, read "[10 Meaningful Advent Traditions to Try This Year](#)." We can all use a few reminders to make time to prepare room for Jesus in our hearts.

Today's #microchallenge from [bustedhalo.com](#)



To stay up to date with parish events, here is a link to the weekly parish bulletin: <https://stjohnfenton.org/bulletins>



# Staff Spotlight



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...  
As we all start to deck the halls in our own homes, we asked our staff to describe their Christmas trees.

**Mrs. Custodio:** My tree is artificial. I started a new theme this year, so we now have a bow adorning the top of our tree. We always decorate it on Thanksgiving, but this year we got excited and decorated early.

**Mrs. Dawes:** My main Christmas tree is an artificial tree with white lights and an angel on top. Most of the ornaments are older glass ornaments my mom handed down to me. My three small tree alpine trees have white lights and snowman ornaments.

**Ms. Wharff:** I try to get my Christmas tree up right after Thanksgiving, but I'm running late this year! I LOVE glitter and all things sparkly, so I have lots of glittery, sparkly ornaments. I also have a lot of special student ornaments that have been gifted to me. Each year, as I put them up I remember all the students I've been blessed to teach. :)

**Mrs. Ratke:** My tree is artificial with lights that change from white to colored. There is an angel on top and it is full of my children's ornaments. Mr. Ratke and I have our own small tree to decorate.

**Mrs. Stickel:** My husband and I were married in Frankenmuth and we received a set of glass ornaments from Bronner's as a gift from our pastor to decorate our first Christmas tree. Since then, we have gone to Bronner's every year and each member of our family buys a new ornament to hang. What started out as a tradition for just my husband and I has turned into a magical day of fun and love with our three daughters seeing Santa, choosing an ornament, and stuffing ourselves with chicken. Our tree is like a scrapbook of our lives and I love opening up the boxes of ornaments each year to remember our journey as a family.

**Mrs. Wright:** Decorating our Christmas tree is one of the highlights of this season. Everyone pitches in to put on their favorite ornaments. We have a beautiful lighted angel that sits atop the tree and a nativity scene that sits below. I like to leave our decorations up through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January.

**Mrs. Adams:** We have an artificial tree with multi-colored lights, which I like to set to blink on and off, and angel on the top of the tree. Our tree is decorated with a mixture of ornaments, some new, some old-going back to ornaments my children made in school, quite a combination! We usually play Christmas songs when we decorate it.

**Mrs. Haiss:** Our Christmas tree has white lights and is topped with a star. Years ago, it was topped with an angel until my son came home from Kindergarten and said, "Mom, don't you know that everyone followed the star when Jesus was born? That's why you're supposed to have a star on top of the tree." Needless to say, we've had a star ever since. Our tree is mostly decorated in red, green, and gold.

## Staff Spotlight

**Mr. Garbutt:** We have a fake tree made of plastic (sorry turtles). It has a silver and gold color scheme with a star on the top. We have lots of fun putting on the decorations. The lights on the tree are controlled by a remote so they can be either colored or white.

**Mrs. Salzano:** The Salzano tree is 3 feet tall and sits on a little side table so our cat, Milosh, doesn't destroy it!

**Mrs. Farella:** We set up an artificial tree every year decorated with warm white lights and many ornaments that are new, old, and handmade by my children in the younger years. The star of Bethlehem is our tree topper.

**Mrs. Roche:** The day we decorate the trees at our house is always my favorite day leading up to Christmas. I love how our tree smells. We use a ton of white lights...it takes forever to put each of them on, but it's so worth it. I can't wait to get our tree this year.

**Mrs. Boyle:** We get our tree the day after Thanksgiving from a tree farm in Brooklyn, Michigan. We always get a too tall, too full Frasier fir. We set it up and let it settle for a few days before putting on lights, ornaments, and a star at the top. We usually put a Nativity under the tree, but with Natalie almost crawling, we will have to find a new place for it this year!

**Ms. Alyatim:** I have an artificial tree but growing up we had beautiful outdoor trees. We put on colored lights. Our theme is Christmas colors. The only thing that is not coordinating is our advent wreath on the kitchen table (purple, pink, gold, and white) with pearls and grapes. I put a lot of work into that wreath. I love redecorating it each year. I love putting Christmas stuffed animals around the tree but my dog likes to destroy them. We have to be extra careful. These are toys my parents have been giving to my sons throughout their lives. Snow globes are popular in our house.

**Mrs. Whitney:** We have a real tree. It's a big deal for us to find the "perfect" tree. We have a star that tops the tree and, each year, one of my sons puts the star on top. We have a lot of crazy ornaments on our tree!

**Mrs. Werschky:** I have a white tree with silver and shades of blue for ornaments, as well as a real that that is multi-colored with special family ornaments on it. I love to decorate the tree as a family, but I am always amused with the way they disappear when it is time to take the trees down.

**Mr. Schmit:** Our tree is artificial with white lights and a star topper. We decorate while we watch Elf.