



St. Joseph Catholic School

Weekly Newsletter – November 17, 2019

From the Principal's Desk

MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in Catholic faith, and committed to academic excellence, St. Joseph Catholic School develops personal responsibility, character, service, and leadership.

Wishing You a Blessed Thanksgiving!



Dear St. Joseph Catholic School Family,

On behalf of the faculty and staff at SJCS, I hope your Thanksgiving is filled with appreciation for God's many blessings, good food, loving company, and a spirit of gratitude. We want you to know that all of us are thankful for you, and for the gift you have given us in your children.

We have a remarkable community at SJCS, anchored in faith, and dedicated to service. In the spirit of this beautiful holiday, I wanted to share with you a devotion by Fr. James

Martin, SJ, which is attached to this week's newsletter.

Yours, in faithful service,
Deborah Suddarth, Ed.S.

Thanksgiving Vacation

Happy Thanksgiving Break!

11:30 am Dismissal on Friday
(NO AFTERCARE)

Monday, December 2nd – School Resumes

Advent Begins on December 1st



During the busy-ness of getting ready for Christmas, please take some time to celebrate the Advent Season as a family and help your children experience the beauty and peace of this special season.

Here are a few resources that may assist as you make Advent plans:

- For Children - Visit Advent Adventures, a free resource for families:

<https://www.holyheroes.com/Holy-Heroes-Advent-Adventure-s/48.htm>

- For parents – Sign Up for Dynamic Catholic reflections:

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>

- A family Advent Calendar is attached.
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Soccer Coaches Needed



We are looking for soccer coaches for the boys and girls soccer teams this year.

The commitment is from January to the beginning of March. It will be about two days per week (possibly 3) but never on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Coach Kolbe for more information at kkolbe@sjsfl.org.



Internet Safety

Internet Safety and Human Trafficking
Important Parent Sessions

November 20 – 6:00 PM
St. Joseph Room

Please see attached information sheet.

Register to attend: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/sjcs-safety>

PENNY WARS – THANK YOU



The Builder's Club would like to send a **BIG THANK YOU** for all the families who participated in **PENNY WARS**. What a fun and exciting way to raise money for our school and community!

The results are IN.... and the WINNERS are:

- **Penny Point High Score - 7th grade (35,498 PTS)**
- **Total Dollar Raised High Score - 5th grade (\$448)**

Together we raised over \$1,800 - Incredible.... Stay tuned for how the Builder's Club plans to help the school and community!

A special thank you to all our helpers counting pennies, especially Ms. Dean and Mr. Salgado who helped each day.

Full score report:

Grade PK3	-20 pts	(\$29.30)
Grade PK4	1233 pts	(\$13.43)
Kindergarten	16,445 pts	(\$138.25)
Grade 1	967 pts	(\$46.77)
Grade 2	5046 pts	(\$106.26)
Grade 3A (Ferguson):	-7,019 pts	(\$348.81)
Grade 3B (Peppard):	-2792 pts	(\$45.78)
Grade 4	3837 pts	(\$258.67)
Grade 5	7842 pts	(\$447.87)
Grade 6	1765 pts	(\$49.75)
Grade 7	35,498 pts	(\$238.78)
Grade 8	4726 pts	(\$119.36)

Thank you

Valerie Longo

Important Safety Information – Dismissal

- Please announce at the designated sign with the PikMyKid app – Hand entering cars slows down the dismissal process. We need all parents to use the APP. This allows students to be ready in the pick up area and prevents them from rushing.
 - Make sure your green sign is visible at the check point – Again, this speeds up the process.
 - DO NOT PASS cars in the line or attempt to pass at any time.
 - NO CELL PHONES in the car line. This is in compliance with Florida law, which prohibits talking on cell phones in cars on school property.
 - The gate closes when the last car goes through the car line. The time can vary. Please note: If there are many after school activities, the line goes faster. On days when there are fewer after school programs, the line will be slower. We cannot predict the ending time for the line. Any children not picked up through the carline are taken to Aftercare. If the gate is closed, park in the north parking lot, enter through that gate and go to the Aftercare room (Portable unit with the ramp). Thank you for your understanding.
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Activities November 18 – November 22

Monday, November 18

3:00 – 4:45 pm	Boys and Girls Basketball Practice
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Odyssey of the Mind Meeting (Grades 6 – 8) – Room 723
3:15 – 4:15 pm	Choir Practice
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Little Pros Soccer

Tuesday, November 19

3:15 pm	Violin
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Intermediate Guitar
4:00 pm	Home Girls Basketball Game vs. Imagine Lakewood Ranch

Wednesday, November 20

3:00 – 4:00 pm	Beginning Guitar
6:00 pm	Internet Safety Program – Parents Only – St. Joseph Room

Thursday, November 21

Grade 1 – Dakin Dairy Field Trip	
8:30 am	VPK A Thanksgiving Pow-Wow
12:15 pm	VPK B Thanksgiving Pow-Wow
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Intermediate Guitar
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Irish Dance
4:30 pm	Away Girls Basketball vs. Palmetto Charter
5:30 pm	Away Boys Basketball vs. Palmetto Charter
(At the Boys and Girls Club of Palmetto, 1600 10th Street, West Palmetto, FL 34221)	

Friday, November 22

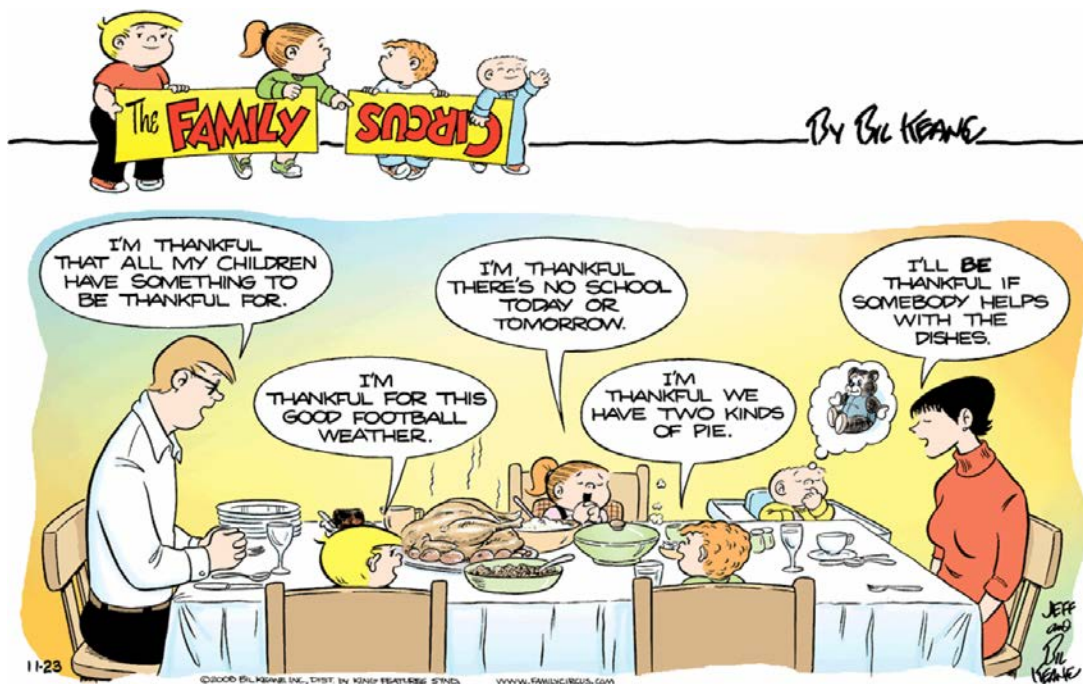
11:30 am	Early Dismissal – No Aftercare – Happy Thanksgiving!
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School resumes on Monday, December 2nd!

Calendar Dates

Mark Your Calendar

November 25 – 29	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	School Resumes
December 2	Grade 3 Field Trip – Lowry Park Zoo
December 4	School Mass
December 4	Cookies with Santa
December 6	Spirit Day and Kona Ice
December 12	December Birthday Celebrations
December 13	Kindergarten Trip to Summerfield
December 13	Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest Entries Due
December 14	<i>A Night Before Christmas</i> – GT Bray Park - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
December 17	Christmas Program – 6:00 pm
December 18	VPK Christmas Play - 8:30 am & 12:15 pm
December 18	Penance Service (Grades 3 – 8)
December 19	June ½ Birthdays Celebration
December 20	End of Second Quarter
December 20	School Mass (Grade 4)
December 20	Christmas Parties & Middle School Dance
December 20	Early Dismissal – 11:30 am
December 23 – January 6	Christmas Break
January 7	School resumes
January 15	K of C Basketball Free Throw Contest – 3:15 – Parish Center



IMPORTANT MEETING
Internet Safety and Human Trafficking
NOVEMBER 20 - 6:00 pm - St. Joseph Room
Parents of Students in Grades 5 - 8

Our St. Joseph Parish Safety and Security Committee has been working with St. Joseph Catholic School. Across our country, there have been serious issues with Human Trafficking and these groups begin by targeting children as young as 10 - 12 years old. Lt. Robert Andrews, from our Manatee County Sheriff's Department has recommended education of our parents and students regarding Internet Safety and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention.

Florida ranks third in the nation for Human Trafficking, only behind California and Texas. In addition, the Suncoast area ranks third in our state, only behind Miami and Orlando. This is an issue where education by all of us is needed to keep our children safe.

On Wednesday evening, November 20th, at 6:00 pm, in the St. Joseph Room, we are offering a special session for parents regarding this issue. We highly recommend attendance of at least one parent per family of students in grades 5 through 8. (Other parents are also welcome to attend.)

In order for us to have an accurate count for planning, please sign up at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/sjcs-safety>

On December 9th, two age-appropriate sessions will be presented to our students in Grades 5 & 6, and for our students in Grades 7 & 8. Attendance at these sessions will require parental permission. All permission information will be sent home with students following the November 20th parent session, and our Thanksgiving break.

Thank you for your interest in the safety of our children and let's work together to help build their awareness of this serious growing problem.



I'm Grateful God:
A Thanksgiving Prayer for Everyone

I'm grateful, God, for so many things. Now, I know I'm not the most grateful person you know, God, so let me take some time to tell you what I'm thankful for.

I'm grateful, God, for the gift of life. Without you I wouldn't be here. Without you nothing would be here. Without you nothing would be at all.

I'm grateful for my parents, God. Even if they weren't perfect, or completely functional, they loved me the best they could and worked hard to make sure that I had enough to eat, that I was clothed and that I had a place to sleep. I'll never know all that they did for me, like the things they did for me when I was a baby, but I can be grateful for the things that I know. Help me to be a grateful child, and remind me to be grateful in person. If my parents have ended their time on earth and are with you, help me to be thankful for their lives, and fill me with the hope of meeting them again in your company, where I'll be able to say thanks again.

I'm grateful for my friends, God. Even if I have only one good friend in my life right now, I'm so grateful. God, you show your love for me through my friends in ways that I sometimes overlook. They give me advice, sometimes when I need it, sometimes when I don't, which in both situations is a sign of their care for me. They listen to me complain, which I do too much, and they celebrate with me, even if things aren't always going well for them. They help me to laugh. And they help me to laugh at myself. That alone is reason to be thankful. Help me to be a good friend in return.

I'm grateful for my family, God. Yes, I know that all families are a little nutty, and mine is no exception. Even Jesus's family tree had its share of complications. But I'm thankful that, even with the nuttiness, I'm part of a family that has helped to make me the person I am. I know that they try to love me the best that they can. Help me to be a good family member, trying to help out when I can, make the phone call or pay a visit when they're lonely, and keep my mouth shut when I should be listening, or when I don't have anything sensible to add to the conversation.

I'm grateful for my job, God. It's not always a bed of roses, but at least I have a place to work and I am able to make ends meet. That's more than many people have. And I know the people I work with can drive me crazy, but they are doing their best, too. Help me to be a good co-worker, to give people the benefit of the doubt, to care for the people with whom I work, and not to take everything so seriously on the job. And help me remember that all work done freely and with a loving heart is worthy in your site.

I'm grateful, God, for all the things that I know many people in this world don't have. And that's a long list. So I'm grateful for food. And clean water that is easily available. And clothes. And heat in the winter and air conditioning and screens in the summer. I'm grateful that I can go to the doctor and get a check up and even get shots to help me avoid illness. That's a lot more than most people have. Help me to be grateful and help me remember that I can help those who have less by being generous. That's one way of thanking you.

Did I mention how much I appreciate all the things you created? For the color of orange autumn leaves against the deep blue sky? For the smell of the sidewalk after a thunderstorm on a hot summer afternoon? For the way that the frost makes crazy patterns on windows in the winter? For the amazing smell of daffodils in the springtime? While I'm at it, I'm also grateful for the beach (that's a pretty great thing you created); the mountains (also great); and sunsets (really great). And hamburgers, too.

Most of all, God, I'm grateful for your presence in my life. You're everywhere, and you invite me to meet you every moment of the day. I know that it is you who turn my mind to thoughts of gratitude. And when I'm tempted to focus only on the problems and worries and fears, I know that I'm being led away from you.

Now, I'm not always as thankful as I should be, but today I am. Today I will try to be grateful all day, since you, God, are generous all day to me, like you are every day.

Amen.

James Martin, SJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday of Advent I will spend a few extra minutes in prayer today.	2 I will do my work well today and with joy for God.	3 <i>St. Francis Xavier</i> I will secretly do a kind act for someone.	4 I will obey my parents, my teachers, and others in charge of me.	5 I will be kind in a special way to someone I do not like much.	6 <i>St. Nicholas</i> I will donate like-new toys and books I've outgrown to needy families.	7 <i>St. Ambrose</i> I will work hard today and do my best.
8 Second Sunday of Advent I will try to show special love for someone who seems unhappy or lonely.	9 <i>Immaculate Conception of Mary</i> I will honor Mary in a very special way today by being cheerful.	10 I will keep calm and not lose my temper when I am pushed or treated rudely.	11 I will do some work for my parents to help them rest after a day of work.	12 <i>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> I will ask Mary to help me make room for Jesus in my heart.	13 <i>St. Lucy</i> I will eat more of what is good for me today and less of what is not.	14 <i>St. John of the Cross</i> I will try to be more thoughtful of others.
15 Third Sunday of Advent I will find a quiet place and sit for a few minutes, just letting God love me.	16 I will not complain today, even if I must do things I do not want to do.	17 I will try to be patient today.	18 I will make a special effort to be kind to those I find it hard to like.	19 I will speak kindly to all I meet today.	20 I will be helpful at home these last days before Jesus' birthday.	21 <i>St. Peter Canisius</i> I will give a smile to all I meet today.
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent I will thank God for all he gives to me.	23 I will do what I can to please my parents and family in a special way today.	24 I welcome Jesus with great love and offer him all the good acts I have performed and the prayers I have said during Advent.	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!			
ADVENT 2019					<i>May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming.</i>	
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