



“We are God’s Masterpiece”

Principal’s Page December 2021

**December Growth Mindset** Everything new takes time to learn.



Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of our Lord, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is a time for praying, family, warmth, gifts, songs, and memories. The Christmas story, the Birth of Jesus, provides us with the true meaning of why we celebrate this season and how we give our hearts to him. Jesus is much more to us than the baby that was born in a manger. He is our redemption. Let us all reflect upon the reason for this season and give the gift of ourselves to others.

I wish all the JFK families a blessed and joyful Christmas holiday.

*Kimberly M. Stevenson*

#### SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Remember to purchase your SCRIP gift cards for gifts and holiday shopping.

Purchase \$300 or \$500 in gift cards and your family earns 1 or 2 dress down days for January.

Download the Raise Right app and receive ecards immediately.

There is still time to order cards before Christmas. See the calendar for the order dates.

#### The Jesse Tree

This year during morning prayers in celebration of Advent, we will use the Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree will help the children connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus’ birth. The Jesse tree is named in Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

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## Novena to St. Andrew November 30<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

If the Saint Andrew novena was prayed as a regular 9-day novena, it would end on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8<sup>th</sup>. However, this novena prayer is prayed longer than 9 days. It is prayed though all 4 weeks of Advent. It is believed that whoever recites this novena prayer 15 times a day from the Feast of St. Andrew until Christmas Eve will obtain the prayer requested.

Prayer:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen

### Honor Roll Awards

Congratulations to the following students who earned a place on the JFK Honor Roll for the 1st Nine Week period. All students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> can earn a place on the quarterly Honor Roll by meeting the following criteria. Honors: Quality point average of 3.25 – 3.74 and High Honors: Quality point average of 3.75 – 4.0.

8 <sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors	Rachael Bova, Grace Cessna, Carter Jobes, Luke Verdun
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors	Kimari Behrens, Leo Carder, Alivia Kirby, Cameron O'Leary, Keira Roddy, William Steimer, Seamus Coyle, Micha Mariana
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors	Jonah Bieranoski, Elliot Bodart, Oliver Bodart, Channing Hartung, Brianna Kalich, Morgan Ondrejko
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors	Cooper Cincinnati, Gavin Dalnoky, Alekzander Halligan, Anthony Moses Josay, Piper Leppert- Bell, Kendell Pauls, Georgia Poach, Gabriella Rieg
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors	Keaton Birdsong, Meghan Coyle, Grace Gehrlein, Lucy Kumpfmiller, Julia Loughman, Abby Papson, Ava Porter, Anna Sawyer, Jacob Startare, Daniel Teahan
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors	Jane Bieranoski, Benjamin Coffman, Annabel Hancq, Joel Hardy, Hope Herrmann, Devyn King, Tyler McVay



### St. Nicholas Day

Feast of St. Nicholas is celebrated On December 6th. St. Nicholas was born about 17 centuries ago in what is now the country of Turkey. Nicholas was kind and known for his generosity to the poor. He gave away his money to those in need, but he tried to do it secretly so no one would know he was responsible. When people found out and praised Nicholas, he reminded them that God was the source of all goodness. Holy Nicholas was chosen to be a Bishop.

One of the old Christian traditions surrounding his feast day is for kids to leave their shoes out on the eve before his feast day. St. Nicholas would visit and fill their shoes with a small gift and treats.

On December 6th, St. Nicholas will visit the children at John F. Kennedy Catholic School. The hallways will be lined with shoes as we anxiously await his visit.

### St. Lucy & the Christmas Wheat

A beautiful Hungarian custom on the feast of St. Lucy on December 13th is to plant "Christmas wheat." The children will receive an envelope of wheat to take home and plant. Also, each classroom will plant wheat. The wheat will be sprouted soft green by Christmas. It should be cut and placed in the creche as a gift for the Child Jesus, symbolic of the Eucharistic bread by which He feeds our souls at the altar as well as of the staff of life by which His Father keeps life in our bodies.



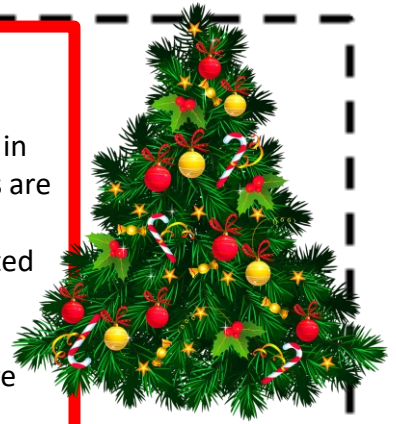


## JFK Tree Trim and Christmas Program

I am very excited to announce that we will once again be holding our Trim Tree and Christmas Program on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 in the church for kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Only parents and younger siblings are invited to attend. Masks must be worn. If it is determined that we have additional room for extended family, we will notify you. We have not created the seating plan at this time.

All students are asked to dress up in their Christmas best. Students who are required to be in costumes will be notified.

Each family is to bring an ornament with your name on it which you will place on the tree as a family after your youngest child's class performs. The ornaments will be returned when we return to school. This event is a beautiful JFK tradition. Thanks to Mrs. Smith and Mr. Tresky for working together to make this event magical.



**Christmas Collection for Priests:** With the holidays approaching we would like to show our appreciation to our Priests for their spiritual guidance and support of Catholic education. We are asking for \$5.00 per family for their Christmas gifts. If you would like to participate, please send your donation in an envelope marked Clergy Christmas Gift to the office by December 13th. The children will present the gifts at mass on December 17th.



The Veteran's Day mass at JFK was very special. It was wonderful to honor our family members and parishioners who served their country. Thank you to all who attended.





## Baby Sitting Night Sponsored by Santa's Elves

<https://signup.com/go/wZLYYGn>

Need a date night or time to go Christmas shopping? Look no further than our Extended Day staff Miss Heather and Mrs. Butterfield. Middle School student volunteers are also needed to help. So, make some plans and send your children to JFK to babysit on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00pm. It is \$25.00 per family or \$15.00 for a single child. No electronic devices will be permitted for use.

The students can wear their pajamas and enjoy popcorn a piece of pizza and a drink. There will be a craft, some games and even a Christmas movie. You must send in the form below with your payment to secure your spot.

Please reserve my spot at the Santa's Elves Baby Sitting night

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ # attending \_\_\_\_\_

My middle school student \_\_\_\_\_ is interested in volunteering for the Babysitting evening

I have enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ for my child(ren).

## Candy Cane Grams

Send a Candy Cane Gram to your children or they can send one to their friends, siblings, teachers, or staff. The school will be selling Candy Cane Grams beginning on December 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> for \$1.00. If you would like to donate some boxes of candy canes for this activity, it would be greatly appreciated. Please send in the candy canes before December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Fill out the attached form to order Candy Cane Grams and return it to the school along with the money. The Student Council will be filling the orders and passing out the Candy Cane Grams.

The Student Council will perform random acts of kindness one day this month. They will place candy canes with a special message on cars in the school and church parking lots. We want to be the reason someone smiles that day.

The Candy Gram order form is on the next page of the Principal's Page.







### Santa's Shop:

The Santa Shop is Back! Our children will be able to shop for Christmas gifts for loved ones and friends at the Santa Shop. The Santa Shop will be opened to shoppers on December 6th through the 10th.

All COVID policies will be followed. Information has been sent home. This year we will be selling \$5.00 gift cards for Starbucks, Barnes & Noble, and Panera at the workshop, too.

Thank you, Kara Antoinette, for chairing this event and all of Santa's elves who will make this experience so magical.

Monday, 12/6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	9:00 am 12:30 pm
Tuesday, 12/7	Kindergarten- (Janda) Kindergarten- (Wortman) 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9:00 am 12:30 pm  1:30 pm
Wednesday, 12/8	Mrs. Wood's Class Mrs. Lynch's Class 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade (Bonner)	8:30 am 10:30 am 12:30 pm
Thursday, 12/9	Miss DiPaolo's Class 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade (Loftis) 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9:00 am 11:00 am 1:00 pm
Friday, 12/10	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9:30 am 11:45 am 1:00 pm





WALK-A-THON  


2022



## Time Sensitive

We are gearing up for the JFK Walkathon Fundraiser. On December 6th, all families will receive a hard copy of your sponsor form from last year. New families will receive a blank sponsor form. The sponsor forms are due on **Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. So please get them turned in and let the fun begin. Look at the great rewards your child will receive for participating in this event.**

**January 4<sup>th</sup>** with 10 potential sponsors there will be a Pajama and Hot Coco Day. Students may wear their pajamas to school and enjoy hot coco in the cafeteria with their friends.

Also, for submitting 10 sponsors, you will receive a ticket for a chance of winning a \$25.00 gift card of your choice.

**March 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>** with 15 potential sponsors your family will receive a Dress Down Week. Students may dress down on Monday – Thursday and dress up for mass on Friday. Also, for submitting 15 sponsors, you will receive 2 tickets for a chance of winning a \$25.00 gift card of your choice.

The Walkathon will be held in May!