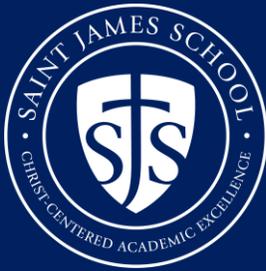


SAINT JAMES SCHOOL
DECEMBER 18, 2019

- ✓ From Sister Joann
- ✓ From the School
- ✓ From the School
- ✓ Counselor's Corner
- ✓ Spirituality Committee



Important Dates

- 12/19: 1st Grade Retreat
- 12/20: 12:45 Dismissal
- 12/23 - 1/1: Christmas Recess
- 1/2: School Resumes
- 1/3: School Mass, 10:15 AM

FROM
THE
PRINCIPAL

This week we have been studying the virtue of Patience. We have certainly been challenged this week to practice it!

But, what a fitting virtue for our students to practice this week. As we all wait for the coming of our Lord as a little babe from a willing and obedient mother, Mary, we must practice patience. As the children become more and more excited for Christmas Day, we must all practice patience. (I'm sure yesterday's power outage didn't help with that!)

This Christmas, be grateful, allow love into your heart, give patience and presence to your families. Christmas wishes for health, hope, and peace for you and yours.

Merry Christmas!
Mrs. Florendo



Patience

Dear God,
Help me to wait
without complaining,
to see You in my neighbor,
and to let Your grace enter this moment
so that I may not lose my patience. Amen

TOMORROW IS THE
LAST DAY OF OUR
RE-ENROLLMENT
RACE!

Please send in your
forms

From
Sister Joann

BACK

Christmas, 2019

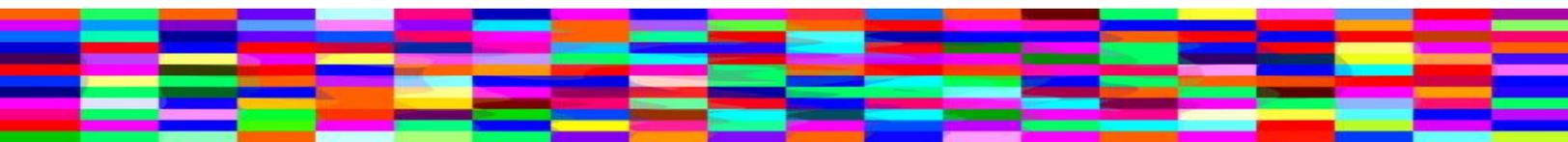
Dear Parents,

I want to take the time to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May 2020 be a year of many graces and blessing for you and your entire family. I want you to know that the Saint James Community is in my prayers throughout the entire Christmas Season and your names are on our altar at our Motherhouse. I also want to take the time to thank each of you for choosing Saint James School for your children. It is a joy and privilege for me to be here to serve and minister with you.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way as we journey together to Bethlehem, celebrate this wonderful Feast of Love and continue our journey through the New Year ahead.

Love, and prayers,

Sister Joann Marie



From the
School

BACK

RE-ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!

Our goal is to have a 100% response rate by December 20! **PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!**
(It's all Mrs. Florendo wants for Christmas!)

**LAST
CHANCE!**

Congratulations to Patrick Linden for
winning the December 13 Raffle!

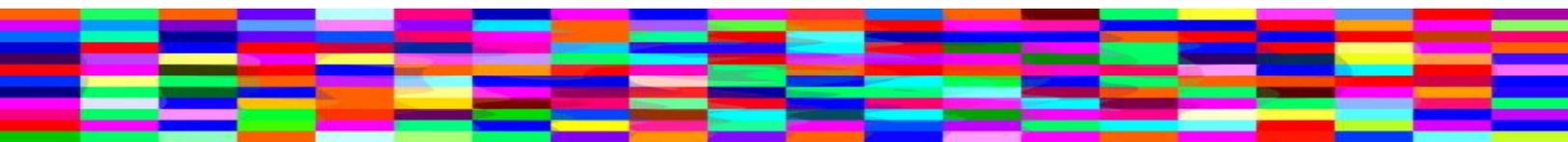
Return your forms to be entered into our weekly raffle
on December 20!

**Fees
Increase
to \$200/
child after
January 3!**

Classes with the highest response rates by
December 20 will win:

Highest: dress-down day and movie afternoon
2nd Highest: free pizza lunch
3rd Highest: munchkins breakfast

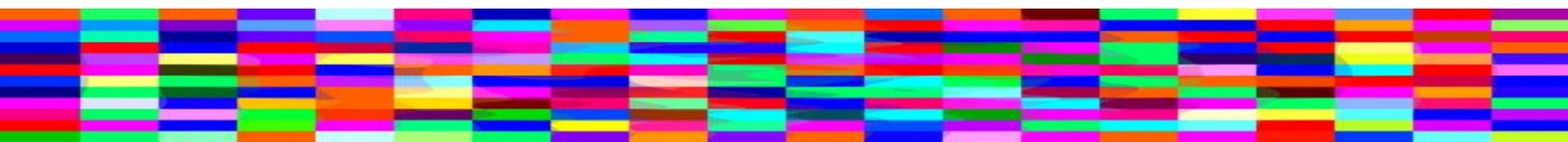
Is your enrollment Packet missing?
You're in luck! [Forms are on the website!](#)



Service Projects Underway

7th Grade

We are running a food drive to benefit the Morristown Soup Kitchen. They are hoping to collect lots of non-perishable food items to feed the hungry. This soup kitchen provides nutritious meals for anyone who comes in, free of charge. They also encourage and provide outreach programs for those who are struggling. But they also need our help!! You can help by donating the following; low-sugar cereals, canned chicken and tuna, canned soup and stew, canned chili and individual packages of trail-mix and nuts. The class which brings in the most amount of food items will win a dress down day. All of your donations are appreciated.



The Importance of Being Present for your Child

“Wherever you are, be all there.” –Jim Elliot

One of the hardest things about parenthood is being present. The only way we can learn to be present is to jump in and try it. We must be consciously aware of our environment and choose better for ourselves and our children. By setting boundaries, you will find yourself becoming naturally present whether it be with your family, friends, or completing your to-do list.

12 ways to be present for your child

- 1. Sleep** — If you are staying up too late and getting up early, that is a surefire way to NOT be a present parent. You're tired and cranky. Not refreshed and happy.
- 2. Put your phone away** — And shut down the computer. Unplug your TV (or just get rid of it altogether). Hide your iPad. And vow to stay away from screens until the kids are really busy playing on their own, or during a dedicated screen hour or when they are asleep.
- 3. Listen with your eyes** — When your child asks you a question, look at them and listen to their words. If you are truly too busy to stop and look at them, at least tell them to wait until you can fully listen. Kids — and adults — just want to be heard so that their ideas, beliefs, feelings matter.
- 4. Join in their fun** — Get off the sidelines and stop watching now and then and join in on their fun. Let them do your hair. Draw with them. Take a walk. Or play a sport. Living in the moment is the purest form of intentional parenting.
- 5. Plan ahead.** Being present takes work. And sometimes, frankly, none of us want more work to do. But, the reward is always worth the work. Parenting is easier when we plan ahead and make more intentional memories rather than just letting chaos unfold.
- 6. Slow down** — There is so much to enjoy in life when you are a child. Digging for worms. Running around playing spy. Putting on a show. Hitting the ball around. Shooting hoops in the driveway with dad. But if your schedule doesn't allow for those spaces of time to do those things, you'll just be another frantic family.
- 7. Pause** — When a child is acting out or acting up, it's often the sign that a serious pause is needed. Learn to notice that a child is off and reclaim your peaceful center. A pause is necessary.
- 8. Stay calm** — No parent can be present and peaceful when they are angry and in a fit of rage. Keeping your cool is essential to making the kinds of positive decisions a child needs during their most needy times in life.
- 9. Seek out the beauty** — Stop along side the road when you see a deer or a rainbow. Stop and talk about the pretty flowers during a walk. Notice the good that others are doing. Do your best to see the beauty unfolding all around you.
- 10. Embrace the moment** — Yes, there are dishes on the counter with food all over them. Yes, there are errands to run. But this day is your one chance because who knows what tomorrow will bring. Embrace this moment that you have together. Seize it and enjoy it.
- 11. Let them be children** — Put away your adult agenda and let your children be children. Let them make a mess. Let them live a full life.
- 12. Carve out time for them** — It's easy to let one task lead to another and never actually make time to do the things you want to do in a day. Same goes for connecting with your children. So make time for it. Put it on your calendar and honor that half hour or hour. If you are at work, make sure to leave in plenty of time to make that special time happen.

3rd week of Advent: Returning to Bethlehem

The third week of the Advent season provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on the central moment in history when God took on our flesh and began to walk among us. It is a time to ready ourselves for our eventual meeting with the very person whom we are awaiting and trying to imitate, our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the season is to create an interior space to welcome Him into our hearts.

In recent years, the celebration of Christmas has become increasingly secularized and consumer-driven, taking away from the spiritual nature of the season. Advent is a marvelous time in which to renew your desire, your real longing for Christ to come—for him to come every day to your soul in the Eucharist. The Church encourages us to prepare: He is about to arrive!

This Advent season, how are you going to renew your desire to welcome Christ? How will you welcome Christ into your family? Into your community of peers?

1. Try and take your young children to living nativities where real donkeys, cows and sheep are grazing amidst the Holy Family. Helping to bring the manger scene to life for little ones can be a way to enter into the mystery.
2. Attend a carol sing in churches where area choirs are showcased. This ritual of singing sacred hymns together has survived in our secular society outlasting many other customs that have disappeared. Hearing and seeing something beautiful helps children feel closer to God.
3. Take a tour of area churches stopping by to see their manger scenes and the various depictions of the Holy Family. Ask your children which ones appeal to them & why.
4. Heading to CT to visit family and friends? Check out the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven. Their annual Christmas exhibition showcases the rich heritage and culture surrounding the celebration of the birth of Christ throughout the European continent. Check it out: kocmuseum.org
5. Taking in the tree at Rockefeller Center? Slip into St Patrick's Cathedral and kneel before their life sized nativity. Uptown the Metropolitan Museum of Art showcases the magnificent Angel Tree with its amazing Neapolitan Crèche at its base. This splendid crèche displayed each Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. Invite your children to imagine themselves in the scene spread out before them. Who would they be? Which angel is their guardian angel?
6. Be generous with your time. Try and visit an elderly neighbor or shut in who could use some company and encouragement. Older people love the beauty and innocence of children. Your presence may be the best present they receive!

*Jesus, stay with us, and then we shall
begin to shine as you shine as to be a
light to others.* -St John Henry Newman

