

SAINT JAMES SCHOOL
JANUARY 29, 2020

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Important Dates

- 1/31: School Mass, 10:15 AM
- 1/31: 12:45 Dismissal
- 1/31: Family Movie Night, see flyer
- 2/3 - 2/14: MAP Testing

Humility

Dear Jesus,
You said, "Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart." You are God, yet You became little out of love for me. I desire to become little for love of You. Help me to be honest about my strengths and weaknesses. May You be glorified in everything that I do!

Amen

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Catholic Schools Week is in full swing and today we enjoyed a visit by Bishop Checchio! Bishop greeted all of our students and then observed the geography bee.

Tomorrow, our students will enjoy spirit games and should wear their spirit gear. Students in grade 7 will complete their service project by delivering all of the food, toiletries, and clothing they have been collecting since earlier in the school year to the Morristown Soup Kitchen. Our 3rd graders will visit Arbor Terrace in Morristown to provide entertainment and friendship to seniors who suffer from dementia. On Friday, we will celebrate Mass to close Catholic Schools Week and our faculty looks forward to the luncheon hosted by our 8th graders!

Thank you for all your support as we continue to provide our children with opportunities to learn, serve, lead and succeed!

Have a great week,
Mrs. Florendo

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
AND SHARE OUR POSTS!**

Please see the next page for an important message from Sister Joann.

Monsignor Cronin, Sister Joann, and Mrs. Florendo hope that all our school families will make Sunday Mass a priority and regularly attend the 9 AM Mass each week. What a wonderful opportunity to share the Mass with your SJS family!



From Sister Joann

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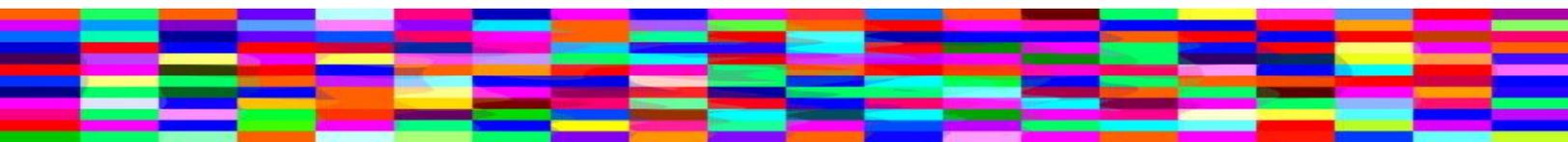
Holy Mass or Liturgy is celebrated every day in our Church. Participating in Holy Mass is a unique opportunity to encounter God that is not available anywhere else. The question is often asked “Why do I have to go to Mass on Sunday?” Instead we should be saying “How can I afford not to go to Mass so that I can receive the fullness of God within me?”

If we realized what is happening at the altar we would be present every day to receive Communion with God. We would be running to the altar and begging God to give us His Holy Body and Holy Blood so that we can LIVE!!

Each time we go to Mass we are nourished by God’s Word, fed by the Lord’s Body, supported by our Church family and strengthened in our Catholic Faith. Do we believe that giving God an hour of our week will be to our benefit and to our children’s spiritual well-being?

We all are busy and have so much to accomplish in a day. I also realize that we live in a secular society and we need to come and pray as a family so that the spiritual part of us is fortified and braced for the tough decisions that need to be made by all of us. Let’s begin now and give priority to God by attending our Family Mass every Sunday at 9:00 AM. You will be gifting your children with a gift that cannot be measured in human standards but through God’s power He will pour many graces upon you and your children that will last forever.

Sr. Joann Marie



From Sister Joann

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WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Today, we are celebrating *World Day for Consecrated Life*! In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted this special day, to pray for and to thank all women and men who have responded to the Gospel call to live a life of consecration in the Church. You might wonder what is Consecrated Life?

Those who live a Consecrated Life have responded to a call from God. It is God who initiates and invites men and women to live this particular vocation. Consecrated women and men profess vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and live in community. This life-long commitment enables and frees us to be of service to the Church in various ministries.

As you know, at St. James, we have six Sisters from the religious community of the Sisters of Christian Charity who minister here. Sister Esther is a Pastoral Associate in the Parish, Sister Donna and Sister Annelyth minister as leaders in Religious Education, Sister Elena, a novice serves as an administrative assistant for Religious Education, Sister Anne tutors in the school and I minister as the Director of our school. Each of us has a particular vocation story, but we all live our vowed life in community, spend time developing and growing in our personal relationship with God and are involved in our daily ministries.

At present, we have 16 women in the Sisters of Christian Charity Formation Programs, studying our way of life. If you are reading this and feel called by God to find out more about religious life, please respond in some way and begin the process. God may be calling you.

If you know a religious woman or man who has responded to this calling, reach out to them and thank them for their life of consecration and for their service in the Church.

Sr. Joann Marie Aumand, SCC
Director of St. James School

From the School

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The 4th graders have started a “Bucket Challenge” for their service project to benefit the Seeing Eye. Send in your loose change and help your child’s class win a special snack provided by Miss Leyhan! The last day for this challenge is Friday, January 31.

THANK YOU!

It was so nice to see so many families at our 9 AM Mass on Sunday and then at our Open House!

We also hosted **14 NEW families with a total of 21 children!**

If you know someone who could not make it to our Open House, please encourage them to contact us for a personal tour!

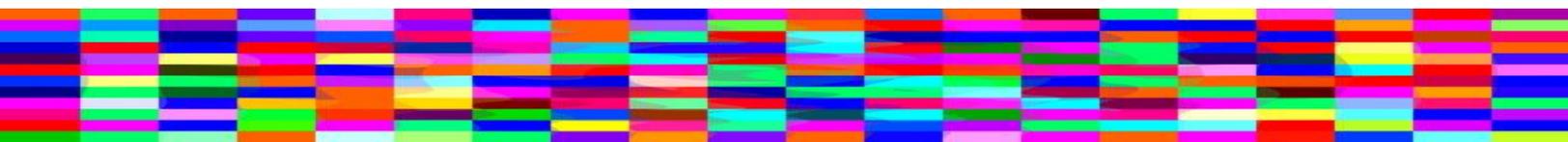
Refer-A-Family Program

Refer-a-Family to Saint James School and earn up to \$1,500 in tuition credit!

We want to thank you for being such wonderful ambassadors!

Refer a new family to Saint James School and earn a \$500 tuition credit for each new family you refer, up to \$1,500!

Just ask each new family to state your name as a referral when they register at Saint James School and, as long as they complete the 2020-2021 school year, we will issue a credit to your tuition.



From the School

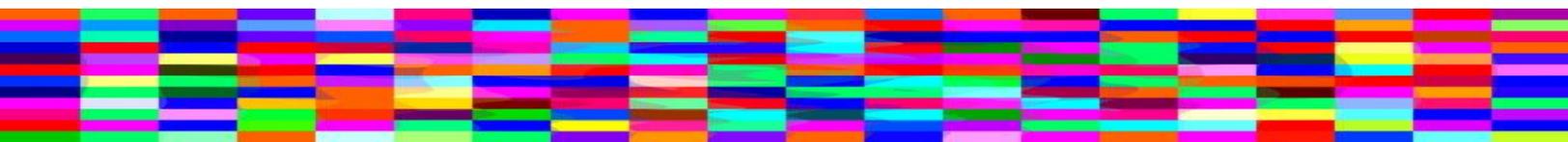
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Our students will be taking the second-of-three MAP (Measured Academic Progress) assessments on Monday, February 3 through Friday, February 14. Students will be in the computer lab for three different assessments over the two-week period. They will be assessed in MATHEMATICS, READING, AND LANGUAGE. (Except our 1st graders who will only be assessed in reading and math)

Please reassure your child(ren) that these assessments are tools for their teachers to determine how best to help them grow and, therefore, they should try their best but not stress over them! Schedules will be sent via Honeywell email on Thursday, January 30.

From the School Nurse

See information about the [Novel Coronavirus](#) from Bernards Township



Talking to Kids About Tragic News Stories

Unfortunately tragic news stories are commonplace these days, and often times children are made aware of these events with or without their parents consent or prior knowledge. When something big happens in the world, use this no-scare guide to explaining current events.

Talking about the news with a 7- or an 8-year-old is tricky. "You want him to have a general understanding of what's going on in the world, but you don't want to bombard him with information," says Elena Jeffries, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and co-founder of Positive Developments, in Millburn, New Jersey. Try these strategies to walk that fine line.

In fact, past research has found that about a third of grade-schoolers regularly watch TV newscasts, and today's 24/7 media environment means that kids can be (and probably are) continually bombarded with the disturbing sights and sounds that come from being surrounded by that type of exposure. Although there's no way (and no reason) to insulate your child from every outlet, you can ensure that he gets a safe dose of reality by taking certain precautions.

Pick the Right Medium

TV news is generally the worst choice for kids this age because it tends to run and re-run the same graphic images, whether it's the footage of the Boston Marathon bombs or destruction from a tornado. "Children tend to think these bad events are happening over and over, which can increase their fear and anxiety," says Dr. Jeffries. If you want to introduce your child to TV news, DVR it as you watch on your own. Then play back only those parts that you want her to see. But it's best to share the news with your child through newspapers, websites, and magazines. "You'll be able to screen them first and decide which stories to share," says Dr. Jeffries. Also log on to news websites that are written with kids in mind such as timeforkids.com or sciencenewsforkids.org.

Offer Context

Kids this age generally don't understand the enormity of the world. "It's hard for them to distinguish between something that's happening in the Middle East and what's going on in their town," says Britton Schnurr, Psy.D., school psychologist at Lynnwood Elementary, in Schenectady, New York. When you talk about bad news abroad, show him how far away it is on a map or a globe.

Prepare Your Kid

It's best if your child hears about news from you first. If you suspect that a tragedy may be discussed at school or at a friend's house, talk about it with her beforehand. And if she does end up learning the news elsewhere? "Before you jump into the conversation, find out exactly what she knows already," suggests Cynthia Harbeck-Weber, Ph.D., a child and adolescent psychologist at the Mayo Clinic Children's Center, in Rochester, Minnesota. "Then clear up any misconceptions she has and answer questions." Kids process information over time, so she may ask you more questions as the week goes on.

Point Out the Good News

Unfortunately, it doesn't get enough attention. "Seek out positive stories to share with your child," says Dr. Jeffries. "Happy events are ideal to talk about and still expand your child's worldview." That's what works for Nicole Jennings, of Columbia, South Carolina. "I pick up where Sara's second-grade teacher leaves off. After the class discussed the presidential inauguration, we let her watch a bit of the coverage," says Jennings. "We also like to follow news about Duchess Kate, so sometimes I'll let her see stories about the royals."

Do Something

"Kids are action-oriented. One of the best ways to help them process current events is to find a way to tie it into their lives," says Dr. Harbeck-Weber. If a tragedy happens, point out all the people who are volunteering and come up with ways that your family can lend a hand. For instance, your son can set up a lemonade stand to benefit the American Red Cross or make cards for kids in the hospital. Becoming involved will help him develop a sense of interconnection with the world.

Source: parents.com

Family Movie Night 1/31. All families welcome – see flyer for RSVP details.

Father/Daughter Dance 2/7. A very special evening for SJS girls and their Dads. Invitation, RSVP and Sign up Genius have been sent.

Thank you to all of our parents who dedicate so much time, energy and thought to all the events we host at school. Our children truly benefit and we appreciate all the efforts you contribute.



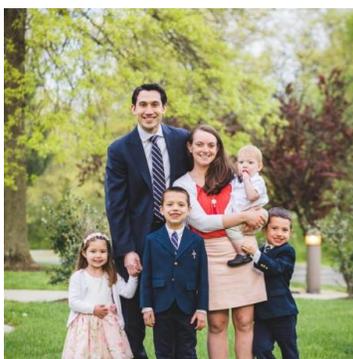
The Challenge Club of St. James will be collecting **gently worn** shoes of all types: men's, women's, & children's. We can accept high-heels, boots, flip-flops, sneakers, soccer & football cleats, dress shoes, etc. Donations will help individuals in developing nations start and sustain small businesses to provide crucial necessities for their families. The sale of just one pair of shoes can provide five meals for a family in need and 30 pairs can generate enough income to send a child to school for a year!

Please place your shoe donations in the Soles for Souls bins at the bottom of the stairs inside the church. We will be collecting shoes through February 2nd.

Spiritual Date Night



*Living and Loving an Authentic Catholic
Life in a Not-So-Catholic World*



Featuring Speakers John and Lindsay Schlegel

John and Lindsay are Pre Cana presenters and Lindsay is a Catholic author, speaker, and podcast host.

When: Saturday, February 8th at 6:30 pm

Where: St. James Chapel Auditorium

Cost: Free

(Optional BYOB, Appetizer or Dessert)

Hosted by the St. James School Spirituality Committee

Please RSVP to Beth DiDomenico- bethdido@hotmail.com

Take a Halftime Break Feb. 21-22

Dear St. James School Fathers:

Every sporting event has a halftime. But life won't give us those scheduled breaks – unless we make them happen.

As a fellow parent at St. James School, I invite you to take a spiritual break for yourself as a Dad. Join me and other St. James men at our parish's first-ever Cornerstone Retreat:

WHEN: Friday February 21, 2020 at 6 p.m. (overnight stay) until Saturday February 22 at 5:30 Mass

WHERE: St Mary's Abbey at Delbarton (9 miles from St. James)

What will happen at the Cornerstone Retreat?

- Good food and fellowship
- Sharing talks by your peers
- Sacrament of Confession
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Group discussions
- Quiet time
- Shared prayer

Your vocation as a father is vital not only to your family. It's meaningful to our school, parish and community. That is why St. James has put together this Cornerstone Retreat for men like you. It's your "halftime break" to dig deeper into your faith and your relationship with God.

Please register today -- spaces are limited. A \$100 donation is requested. Financial assistance is available.

To REGISTER (or ask a QUESTION), contact Terry Conley (terryconley@me.com / (973) 464-5536 or Tom Szeluga (tjszeluga@gmail.com / (908) 787-4220).