

OUR WEEKLY NEWS

"LIGHTING A PATH TO THE HIGHER PURPOSE."



December 15th through December 19th

St. Joseph Community School's mission is that we are here to lead students to their fullest potential. We focus on four main categories: *academic excellency, faith, leadership, and service*. All of these categories are meant for them to thrive and also encounter Christ while on their journey.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCY

FAITH

LEADERSHIP

SERVICE

Proverbs 27:17



What are you waiting for?
START YOUR PATH HERE



"At St. Joe's, my faith was cultivated and intertwined with academics, volunteering, and athletics, and truly everything that we did. This was so valuable and formative during my growing up years, alongside what I was learning at home and at church about my faith."

Lydia Gessner // Class of '16



UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

All Month - Kindergarten Cocoa Stand

Monday, December 15th

- 12 Days of Dress Up - Merry Morning (Wear school-appropriate pjs & comfy clothes)
- 12 Days of Giving - 3rd grade - Shampoo and Conditioner

Tuesday, December 16th

- 12 Days of Dress Up - Tree Topper (Holiday hats! Santa hats, elf hats, ect.)
- 12 Days of Giving - 4th grade - Canned Vegetables
- Christmas Store 10am

Wednesday, December 17th

- 12 Days of Dress Up - Festive Socks or Sweaters (Choose between crazy holiday socks or an ugly/festive sweater)
- 12 Days of Giving - 5th/6th grade - Laundry Detergent
- Advent Prayer Service at 10am in the gathering space
- Red Kettle Bell Ringing

Thursday, December 18th

- 12 Days of Dress Up - Holiday Character Day (Dress as or wear items inspired by elves, reindeer, snowmen, Grinch, etc.)
- 12 Days of Giving - 7th/8th grade - Body Wash/Soap
- Red Kettle Bell Ringing
- 3rd and 4th grade Christmas Caroling to rotary at 12:10pm

Friday, December 19th

- 12 Days of Dress Up - Candy Cane Day (Wear red and white, stripes, or peppermint-themed outfits)
- 12 Days of Giving - Office - Mouth Wash
- All School Mass at 8:30am

Visit our school [calendar](#) to see more upcoming events!

UPCOMING ACTIVITY EVENTS

Tuesday, December 16th

7th grade girls basketball at Cresco 3:15pm

Visit the activities [calendar](#) to see any changes or more information!



OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Doors open 7:45am

Breakfast is served 7:45am-8:00am

School day begins 8:05am

School day ends 3:15pm

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Mass Times

4pm at Holy Family

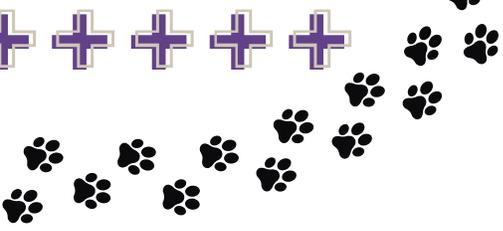
6pm at IC in North Washington or St. Boniface

Sunday Mass Times

8am at Holy Family

9am at Holy Family





MEET THE TEAMS

Specials Teams

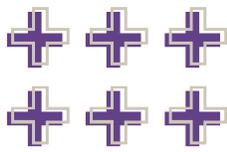


P.E. LINEUP:

This week in PE we continued our roller skating unit, and the excitement is still going strong! Students had the chance to build on their skills while we introduced a few new games and challenges to keep things fun and engaging. We are so impressed with how confident and capable our skaters are becoming—everyone is making great progress and truly enjoying the experience. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, teamwork, and growing independence on wheels! We're looking forward to even more fun and learning as our skating unit continues!

- Mr. Henry and Mrs. Larsen





MEET THE TEAMS

Early Childhood Team

3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS: A FUN WEEK OF LEARNING!

Colors- gray, black, brown, and pink
Letters- Uu, Ww, Zz, and Vv
Shapes- Crescent, Rhombus, and Square
Numbers- 6, 9, 0, and 8

The dress up days started this week and we were grateful to a parent for donating glow sticks to our room. Because of this we had a little spur of the moment dance party in the dark. The students loved seeing their glow sticks all lit up. We continued to count to 25 on our number line with the help of one of our jobs on our job chart. The students also continued to love doing number identification with the rebounder every day. We worked with lots of vocabulary with TED our puppet. He walked us through identifying clean and dirty items and even introduced us to the words filthy and muddy. After that we read a story about TED and his car and had to predict what would happen next. Then we worked on retelling the story. Another day TED about different ways and things to use to wash and clean. Then we worked on the sequence of a story using TED's story about Rabbits Birthday Present. The students had to listen to the story with no pictures and then work on identifying how the story should look with pictures. Of course we also had to play TED's song as it is a favorite of the room. We continue to work on ways to share and how to share our feelings if someone says or does something we do not like. One final thing we were able to do is go to the church to find out spots for the Christmas concert and practice singing with the other preschoolers and kindergarten students a couple of days this week. We worked so hard and hope you enjoyed our concert today. - **Mrs. Schueth**



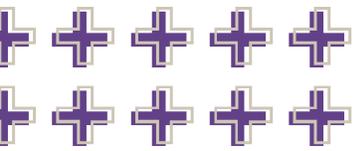
4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Letters- T, U, V, W
Numbers-18, 15, 12, 19
Shapes-heart, trapezoid, cone, triangle/triangular prism
Nursery rhyme- review

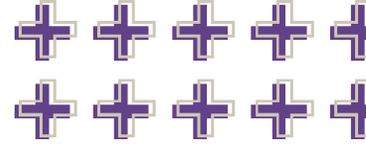
During Station Rotation this week the preschoolers working on name writing and hunting for letters on Monday. With the early out on Tuesday and practicing for the concert on Thursday and Friday, we didn't do stations the rest of the week. We had a special guest reader on Monday.....Mrs. Nehl's! She read a book about friendship and feelings called What About Bear? The preschoolers talked about living and nonliving things, even creating a very long list for each category. They did such a great job, they could have filled up multiple charts! Next week, we will be finishing up our tree study!

Upcoming dates

December 14-Christmas concert
December 16- Kindergarten cocoa stand visit
December 23- early out
December 24 thru January 2- no school for Christmas - **Mrs. Abbott**



MEET THE TEAMS



Early Childhood

KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS:

We have continued our journey through Advent this week, adding another flame to our Advent calendars and coloring in our spaces as the days go by. We have also been enjoying the gingerbread exchange letters that have been arriving from schools across the country. In phonics this week, we worked with the skill of adding sounds to the end of words to make new words (for example, bee plus /t/ is beet). We also learned the heart words "to", "not", and "can", and worked with the letters and sounds for j, w, and z. In math, we have begun working with the concept of addition by telling joining stories and



creating joining sentences to match the stories. We worked hard to prepare for the Christmas concert and hope you enjoyed it! - **Mrs. Flugum**



FIRST GRADE INSIDE SCOOP:

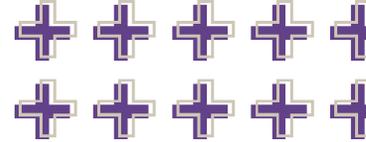
Happy Sunday and welcome to the third week in Advent. We have been continuing our journey in Advent and preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. I know you can imagine the level of energy running through the school and classrooms. In math we finished Topic 6 and have started Topic 7 which is covering counting and number patterns to 120. In writing students are working on their Christmas story. We are focusing on settings, characters, a beginning, middle, and an ending. They have been very creative and I can't wait to see the final project. In phonics we have been working on trigraphs tch and dge. We learned that these will never be found at the end of the word and also that there is no word in the English language that ends in a j. Our science unit is still focusing on day patterns. In reading we have been focusing on fiction and nonfiction as well. We hope you have a great week! - **Mrs. Heying**

Elementary Team

SECOND GRADE NEWSFLASH: A WEEK OF LEARNING AND FUN!

This week the second grade class continues to prepare for Jesus by learning more about Advent. We enjoyed a special mass on Monday for Mary and were reminded of the joy that Mary felt when Jesus was born. The class is learning mental math and how breaking numbers into tens and ones can give us the sum. We continue our author study on Tomie dePaola and read some Christmas stories including Joy to the World and The Legend of the Poinsettia. We are preparing for the Christmas concert and Sunday and are excited to share all of the songs with our family and friends. - **Mrs. Rochford**





MEET THE TEAMS

Elementary Team

THIRD GRADE:

Oh the weather outside is... something else! We rolled with it this week and kept on learning. Our week started out with leading the mass on Monday. The students stepped up and did an amazing job! I couldn't be more proud. We are halfway through Advent and are thinking about how we can bring peace into our hearts and the world. Looking for more patterns in multiples of 2, 5, 10 has been our focus. Practicing at home with these facts, even a few a day, will be super helpful. We spent a lot of time perfecting our parts for the Christmas program. A huge shout out to Mrs. Schueth and Mr. Speltz for all of their hard work and time. Happy Advent- God is with us! - **Mrs. Herold**

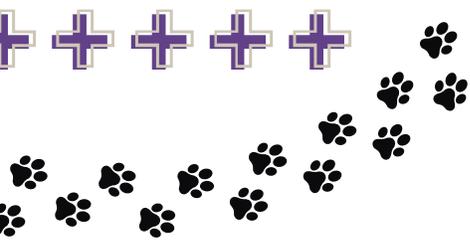


FOURTH GRADE:

This week was full of great learning and excitement in our classroom! In Reading, we enjoyed the beautifully illustrated story Verdi by Janell Cannon. Students loved following the journey of a young python learning to grow confidently into who he is meant to be. We had great discussions about character growth, courage, and understanding ourselves and others. In Math, we wrapped up our Unit 6 test and have moved into new multiplication skills. Students are now working on multiplying 2-digit numbers by multiples of ten, as well as beginning to explore 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication. We're taking it step-by-step and building strong strategies to support this big new skill. In Social Studies, we began our special December unit on places Jesus visited in the Bible. Students are learning where these locations are on the map and exploring what they look like today. It's a wonderful blend of geography, history, and faith. We also spent time practicing for our upcoming Christmas Concert, which will take place on December 14th. The students are working hard and are very excited to share their music with you! Thank you for your continued support at home—it's been a joy seeing the students' enthusiasm as we move into this Advent season.

- **Mr. Larsen**

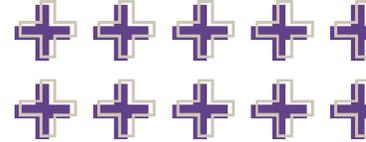




MEET THE TEAMS

Middle School Team

MIDDLE SCHOOL:



In math our 5th graders are diving into dividing decimals and discovering how place value and number sense help them break down more complex problems. This skill is the perfect stepping stone as we head into Order of Operations (PEMDAS), where students will learn how to solve multi-step expressions with confidence. They're building a strong foundation for the exciting math challenges ahead! Over the last couple of weeks the 6th grade students have been exploring Topic 2: Equations and Inequalities. They learned how to write, model, and solve one-step equations, as well as how inequalities help represent real-world situations with more than one possible solution. Students have shown great perseverance when solving word problems, and are building confidence and accuracy with solving equations. The 7th Graders finished up work with rational numbers. They will now start working with expressions and equations. They will be using their skills they have been working on with adding, subtracting, multiplication, division, positive and negative numbers. This week the 8th graders started a new topic in math. The focus for the next few weeks will be on angles and triangles. We began by reviewing important vocabulary like adjacent, vertical, complimentary, and supplementary angles. Making sure those terms are mastered will help build success for the rest of the skills that will follow. - Mrs. Stumme, Mrs. Shatek, Mrs. Denner, and Mrs. McDonald



12 Days of *Christmas* Dress Up Days

December 8th - Merry & Bright

(Red vs. Green, wear your favorite color and see which wins)

December 9th - Twinkle Lights

(Glow sticks, light-up necklaces, or LED accessories. NO flashing lights please)

December 10th - Wrap It Up

(Wear bows, ribbons, gift-tag accessories, or paper patterns)

December 11th - Holiday Vacation

(Think tropical Christmas—Hawaiian shirts, sunglasses, leis, beach Santa vibes)

December 12th - Flannel Friday

(Wear your coziest flannel shirt or plaid outfit)

December 15th - Merry Morning

(Wear school-appropriate pajamas, slippers (or slipper socks), and comfy clothes)

December 16th - Tree Topper

(Holiday hats! Santa hats, elf hats, reindeer antlers, or tree toppers)

December 17th - Festive Socks or Sweaters

(Choose between crazy holiday socks or an ugly/festive sweater)

December 18th - Holiday Character Day

(Dress as or wear items inspired by elves, reindeer, snowmen, Grinch, etc.)

December 19th - Candy Cane Day

(Wear red and white, stripes, or peppermint-themed outfits)

December 22nd - Blizzard Blue Day

(Wear all blues, silvers, sparkles, or snowstorm-themed items.)

December 23rd - All the Jingle Bells Day

(Go all out with full holiday spirit—holiday shirts, accessories, bells, and festive colors)

12 Days of *Christmas* Giving

3 YO - Tooth Paste/Tooth Brushes

4 YO - Canned Fruit

K - Socks

1st - Toilet Paper

2nd - Baby Wipes

3rd - Shampoo and Conditioner

4th - Canned Vegetables

5th/6th - Laundry Detergent

7th/8th - Body Wash/Soap

Office - Mouth Wash

Teachers - Feminine Hygiene Products

Support Staff - Deodorant