



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John Parish

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December 9, 2015

Letter from the Principal

Be ready and watchful, for the light of the world has come and will surely come again.

2nd WEEK OF ADVENT: HOPE We light a second purple candle on the second Sunday of Advent to represent the hope of Christ coming to the world.

The word "hope" has two meanings in the Bible. The first, *tiqvah*, contains the sense of eager anticipation or waiting. The second, *elpis*, depicts a sense of confident expectation based on certainty. Biblical hope is secured by God's faithfulness to His promises. For the Old Testament leaders, their hope was in the Messiah's arrival. For us, it is the hope of the Messiah's return.

God's plan for humanity unfolded in the town of Bethlehem, the birthplace of the Messiah, joyously fulfilling a long-awaited promise. Today we confidently wait for the Messiah's triumphant return.

<http://www1.cbn.com/devotions/celebrate-second-week-advent>

Blessings,

Mrs. Rachel Gonsalves



Pope Francis Declares Year of Mercy

From Advent 2015 to the end of the liturgical year in 2016, the Catholic Church is celebrating a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis is encouraging the entire Church to meditate on God's mercy in their lives and to share that mercy with others.

Year of Mercy website (Vatican)
<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>

At St. John Catholic School, we will be marking this jubilee year in our religion classes, liturgical celebrations, and service projects with our classes to show mercy

Pictures with Santa

Students are invited to take pictures with Santa tomorrow, December 10. The cost is \$5 per print. Students may wear Christmas attire to school only if he/she is taking a picture with Santa, and students must follow the non-uniform guidelines as outlined in the Parent/Student handbook.

LAST CALL for 2015 SCRIP Orders!!

Now is the time to order SCRIP your your holiday grocery shopping and Christmas gift giving! Order forms are available in the school office. ***All orders must be received by Friday, December 11 for delivery before Christmas break.***

Morning Drop Off Reminders

Parking Lot Speed Limit: 5 MPH

As a courtesy to all of our parents and to avoid traffic backups on Lewelling Blvd., kindly park your car in a designated spot if you and your children require more time, e.g. opening the trunk, being unbuckled from a car seat, zipping jackets, etc. as this will allow vehicles behind you to keep the line moving.

Remember that all families are invited to walk children to the schoolyard and join us for morning assembly, pledge, and prayer. We look forward to seeing you!

Grades 6-8 Service Opportunity!

St. Vincent de Paul Needs Your Help

The ministry of St. Vincent de Paul at St. John would like to open up the Christmas basket assembly and distribution to students and parents in grades 6-8. Parent service hours will be given for supervising students on Friday, December 18th from 12-2 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you would like to sign up for a time slot, please contact Mr. Epperson at sepperson@csdo.org or sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094faba62ba0ff2-stvincent>. Thank you for giving your time and service to the needy in our community during this holiday season!

Parent-Student Handbook

The 2015-2016 Parent/Student Handbook is now available on line. Please visit the school's website to access this handbook. To make navigating policies easier, all updates are marked in red.

Handbook Reminder of the Week

Each week, look for a gentle reminder from our 2015-2016 Parent/Student Handbook. This week we will focus on **Academic Probation:**

Students who earn below a C average on any report card will be placed on academic probation. Characteristics That Support Learning scores may be used as a mitigating factor to determine whether a student will be

placed on academic probation.

Academic probation means both the parent and student must attend a mandatory conference with the teacher at the discretion of administration, and a student success team conference may be required.

Students on academic probation will also lose the privilege to participate in extra-curricular activities, including choir, student council, liturgy committee, etc. A student on academic probation for two consecutive trimesters during the same school year may not be eligible for enrollment the following academic year. Status of students on academic probation will be reviewed at progress report and end-of-trimester report card periods, and the final determination will be made by the Principal and/or Pastor in consultation with the teacher(s) and the diocesan Schools Department as needed.

NEW! Student Emergency Kits

St. John Catholic School recently completed an inventory of emergency supplies. We have a good stock of medical supplies and emergency blankets, but need to ensure emergency food and water packs for each child. Schools customarily ask families to provide an emergency pack for each child at the beginning of the school year, and then the packs are sent home at the end of each school year to be restocked with non-expired products.

Beginning in January 2016, families will be asked to provide an emergency pack for their child(ren). Required supplies will include two 16oz. bottles of water, six high protein bars or one 2400 calorie Datrix food ration bar, and one pair of underwear. All consumable items should not expire before June 2016.

More information regarding these kits will be sent home the first week in January. Your child's safety and comfort are our first priority, and your cooperation is much appreciated.

San Francisco Boys Choir Auditions

Auditions for the San Francisco Boys Chorus will take place at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland on Saturday, January 9, 2016. Boys 5-12 years old with unchanged voices are encouraged to apply, and no prior music training is necessary.

Boys will receive vocal training and gain self-confidence, self-discipline, and appreciation for music. Boys who were trained by the San Francisco Boys Chorus have performed in San Francisco Opera productions since 1948, in addition to touring domestically and internationally.

For more information, contact San Francisco Boys Chorus Office at 415-861-7464 or visit them at sfbcfinance@sfbc.org
Sfbc.org/auditions

IMPORTANT

SJCS Christmas Program Reminder

All families are invited to our annual SJCS Christmas Program on Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Students must report to their classrooms by 6 p.m. Please check with your child's teacher for specific details.

Our parish is blessed with many active ministries celebrating various cultural and faith activities in December. Please note that the parish will be celebrating Posadas in the gym next Thursday night, and parking will be tight. Exercise patience and caution in the parking lot, arrive early, and consider carpooling for convenience.

Brrr! It's Cold Outside

Please remember that students may wear non-uniform jackets to and from school only, and are required to wear uniform sweatshirts, sweaters, and jackets during the school day, including recess and lunch. There are plenty of uniform options to keep you warm during these chilly months.

For our young ladies, please remember that **leggings are not allowed**. Girls may wear solid black, solid green, or solid white tights with skirts and jumpers only.

Now is a good time to upgrade those cloth shoes to leather or leather-like uppers. When purchasing shoes for school, please remember to follow our dress code guidelines – shoes must be solid black, brown, or white; gray is not a part of the St. John Catholic School dress code.

Parent Club!

Please join us for our December Parent Club event, "Meet & Mingle and Internet Safety" which will be a presentation by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. The event will be Thursday, December 10th at 6 p.m. at the school. Please RSVP through SignUpGenius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4ca4aa2baaf58-happy>

Light snacks and beverages will be provided. S.E.P. will be offered from 6p.m. - 8p.m., but please sign up at the link above to reserve your spot.

Volunteers needed!

Looking to complete your family's service hours? Our hot lunch program is in need of more volunteers! It is a one-hour a week time commitment. Please let the office know if you are available to help with our student's lunch program, (510) 276-6632.



Calendar Reminders

6th gr. Bake Sale

Thursday, December 10

Pictures with Santa

Thursday, December 10

Parent Club Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 6 p.m.

Children's Mass – K and 8th grade

Sunday, December 13, 9:30 a.m

8th gr. Nacho Sale

Wednesday, December 16

Christmas Program – Church

Thursday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.

Noon Dismissal - Classroom Parties

Friday, December 18

Christmas Vacation

December 21 – January 4, 2016