



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John Parish

270 E. Lewelling Boulevard, San Lorenzo, California 94580
(510) 276-6632 Fax: (510) 276-5645 www.stjohncatholicschool.org



November 18, 2015

Letter from the Principal

I would like to share with you a wonderful prayer for Thanksgiving. We pray daily for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us, and thank God for all the gifts in our lives.

*We thank you
for the goodness of our people
and for the spirit of justice
that fills this nation.
We thank you for the beauty and fullness
of the land and the challenge of the
cities.*

*We thank you for our work and our rest,
for one another, and for our homes.
We thank you, Lord:
accept our thanksgiving on this day.
We pray and give thanks through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*—from Catholic Household Blessings
and Prayers.*

Blessings,
Mrs. Rachel Gonsalves

SVdeP Canned Food Drive

*“Lord, teach us to go out into the streets
and manifest your love.” – Pope Francis*

Thank you for your generosity! St. John Catholic School, in partnership with the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. John the Baptist parish, helped provide holiday meal fixings to more than 100 needy families in our parish area.

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.

One of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching is Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, which is defined as: *A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.*



Golden Age Gifts

In the same spirit of Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, each SJCS family is asked to donate at least one gift for an elderly or needy member of our parish to be distributed at the Golden Age Dinner on Saturday, December 5. This is an annual event sponsored by St. John the Baptist Church for the elderly and needy in our community.

Gift ideas include solid shirts (sizes lg or xl), socks, slippers, slipper-socks, gloves, scarves, non-allergenic hand cream or lotion. **All gift items are due Tuesday, December 1.** Our SJCS Student Council will wrap and label the gifts, and deliver them to the Golden Age Dinner committee.

Omelet Sunday and Ministry Fair Thank You

A BIG thank you to the students and faculty who participated in last weekend's Parish Ministry Fair at St. John. A special thank you to Mr. Enos for coordinating the school's participation, and many thanks to the 8th graders who arrived early and dedicated the greater half of their day to serving breakfast to the guests: Kobe Herrera, Christine Villanueva, Karill Alfonzo-Yumul, Josie Babcock, Daniela Hupke, Isabella Fitzgerald, Carlo Ferreira, and Isaiah Enos for offering their time and representing our school so well. In addition, we thank Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Babcock, Coach Joe Thomas, Ms. Child, Mr. Fitzgerald, and Mrs. Fitzgerald for their participation. It was a nice day and a great way to show our partnership with our parish community!

Report Cards – Friday

This Friday, students will bring home report cards to share their progress and learning goals with their families.

Parents are asked to keep the contents of the report card envelopes at home, and return the signed envelope on Monday, November 30.

We congratulate all of our students for their hard work and effort this past trimester, and encourage them to continue their thirst for knowledge and academic excellence.

Parent-Student Handbook

The 2015-2016 Parent/Student Handbook will be available on line by Friday, November 20. Please visit the school's website to access this handbook.

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 **Work Habits and Behavior/Social Development/Effort:**

Work Habits and Behavior/Social Development/Effort criteria are reflected separately from academic achievement on report cards in the Diocese of Oakland. These criteria are used to separate academic from non-academic reporting grades. Work Habit and Behavior/Social Development/Effort scores are earned in grades 1-8 beginning in the 2015-2016 school year using the following codes:

E – Exceeds: Student consistently demonstrates the characteristic
M – Meets: Student demonstrates the characteristic most or some of the time
N – Needs Improvement: Student seldom demonstrates the characteristic

Work Habits

1. Shows positive attitude towards learning
2. Listens attentively
3. Follows directions
4. Is a self-directed learner
5. Demonstrates self confidence and seeks help appropriately
6. Organizes self, materials, and belongings
7. Completes quality classroom assignments on time
8. Completes and returns quality homework on time
9. Produces quality work consistently
10. Has appropriate attention span
11. Works to ability

Behavior/Social Development/Effort

1. Actively serves and enriches the community
2. Contributes to the learning environment
3. Practices self-management skills
4. Cooperates with others and solves problems appropriately
5. Collaborates effectively with others
6. Takes responsibility for his/her own choices and actions
7. Follows classroom and school routines and procedures
8. Respectful of rights, opinions, and property of others

SCRIP Orders

Now is the time to order SCRIP your holiday grocery shopping and Christmas gift giving! Don't forget that we stock Papa Murphy's gift cards too! Order forms are included in this week's envelope and are also available in the school office. Submit your order when we return from Thanksgiving break, December 3.

Parent Coffee Chat

Please join us for this month's Coffee Chat on Friday, Nov. 20th at 8:05am in the Meeting Room. The chat will be featuring guest speakers on our afterschool/extra-curricular school programs: S.E.P., Choice Lunch, Martial Arts, and M.U.S.E. Interested about learning more or have questions about any of these programs, join us and get the info you need!

UPDATE! Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found bin, located just outside the school's science lab, is overflowing with jacket and sweatshirts, lunch pails, notebooks, and more. If you have any items "missing," please check the bin. This is a good time to remind folks that all items should be clearly marked with your child's name.

All items not claimed by Friday, November 20 will be donated to Uniform Exchange and/or recycled.

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 the chilly months ahead.

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.

SJCS School Calendar

Our full school calendar is available on our school website. Please check it out to stay up-to-date!

www.stjohncatholicschool.org.



Calendar Reminders

6th Gr. Bake Sale

Thursday, November 19

Coffee Chat

Friday, November 20, 8:10 a.m.

T1 Report Cards Go Home

Friday, November 20

Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Holiday Boutique

Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and
22, 10am-4pm

43326 Mission Blvd. Fremont, CA

<https://www.msjdominicans.org/NewsAndEvents/HolidayBoutique>

Thanksgiving Break

November 23-27

Classes Resume November 30

Santa Shop

December 8 and 9