



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John Parish

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October 28, 2015

Letter from the Principal

Dear SJCS Families,

We are in the throes of our annual **Fall Fundraiser!** *This is our major fundraiser for the year, and profits from this event count toward the \$300 family fundraising commitment for the year.* This amount is budgeted in to our operating expenses – tuition alone is not enough to cover our costs to operate a high-quality Catholic school. We hope that you will enjoy the selection of gift items, helpful household items, festive giftwrap, and delectable edibles for you, and your friends and family.

A beautiful tradition at St. John Catholic School is our annual **Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)** altars. Students may now bring photos of their deceased loved ones to place on the altars.

Earlier this week, our student council safety team led us in our first **earthquake drill** – duck and cover! It's a fact that we live in "earthquake country" and we practice in accordance with diocesan schedules. Is your family prepared? Now is a good time to review your family plan and check emergency supplies at home. I'll be doing the same.

Blessings,

Mrs. Rachel Gonsalves

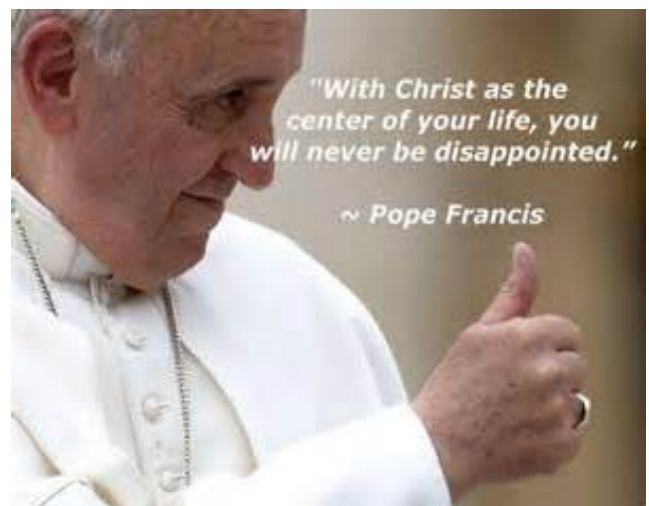
Attention Active Parishioners! Altar Server Candidates Needed

St. John the Baptist Church and St. John Catholic School are currently seeking SJCS students in grades 5-8 to become altar servers. This is an important liturgical leadership opportunity. Interested students must be in grades 5-8 and must be current with the sacraments of initiation (baptism and communion).

**Training begins
THIS THURSDAY @ 6 p.m.
in the church.**

If your family has declared Active Parishioner status at our school, this is an excellent way for you and your children to serve our school and parish communities by putting your faith and commitment into action.

A Word from Pope Francis



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.

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 an excerpt from the St. John Catholic School **Bicycles on Campus**:

- PreK-2 students may not ride bicycles to school.
- All bicycles enter at the main gate to the schoolyard in the morning. At dismissal, students with bicycles will be escorted to the north gate on Ashland Avenue.
- No bicycle riding is allowed in the schoolyard. Students must walk bicycles to and from the entrance and exit.
- All bicycles must be equipped with locks. Bike racks are located at the east side of the school building. Each rider is expected to secure his/her own bicycle.
- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged bicycles.
- Children are required by law to wear helmets. Children who do not wear helmets will lose the privilege of riding a bicycle to school.

What's Lost CAN Be Found!

Our Lost and Found bin, located just outside the science lab, is overflowing with jacket and sweatshirts, lunch pails, notebooks, and more. If you have any items "missing," please check the bin. A good number of items are NOT clearly marked with student names, which makes it difficult for us to proactively return items that go astray. Thank you for your cooperation in returning items to the rightful owner!

Catholic High Schools -

Open House Events

Attention parents of students in grades 5-8 – It's not too early to begin learning about your Catholic high school options! Students and families are encouraged to attend Open House events in October and November at our local Catholic high schools. Find out how you can make a Catholic high school experience possible for your child! See our Calendar Reminders for dates and times.

SVdeP Canned Food Drive

Our Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive is November 2 – 18. Please support our parish St. Vincent de Paul ministry by donating instant potatoes, stuffing mix, canned vegetables and green beans, canned fruit, canned soup, cranberry sauce, and gravy mix. Help us provide a proper Thanksgiving feast for the needy in our community. Thank you for your generosity.



Halloween and Its Christian Roots

From <http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/Oct2001/Family.asp>

When you think of Halloween, what comes to mind? For a lot of people, Halloween has become synonymous with candy, costumes, scary stuff, witches, ghosts and pumpkins. But do you know the Christian connection to the holiday?

The true origins of Halloween lie with the ancient Celtic tribes who lived in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany. For the Celts, November 1 marked the beginning of a new year and the coming of winter. The night before the new year, they celebrated the festival of Samhain. During this festival, Celts believed the souls of the dead returned to mingle with the living. In order to scare away evil spirits, people would wear masks and light bonfires.

But where does the Christian aspect of the holiday come into play? In 835, Pope Gregory IV moved the celebration for all the martyrs (later all saints) from May 13 to November 1. The night before became known as All Hallows Eve, or "holy evening." Eventually the name was shortened to the current Halloween. On November 2, the Church celebrates All Souls Day. The purpose of these feasts is to remember those who have died, whether recognized by the Church as saints or not.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that through the communion of saints, a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is an abundant exchange of all good things (#1475).

Welcome Ms. Dandan!

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Regine Dandan as our new music teacher at St. John! Ms. Dandan is a talented cellist who has performed at the Cathedral of Christ the Light and with our liturgical music ministry at St. John. She has her BA degree from CSU East Bay, and has taught music to students in San Lorenzo and the surrounding areas, including St. Joachim School in Hayward. Ms. Dandan is excited to work with our students beginning November 2. She will be working to prepare them for our annual Christmas program on December 17, and will be re-establishing our school choir very soon. Welcome to our St. John family, Ms. Dandan!

Ministry Sunday "Omelet Feast"

Join the St. John parish community for a create-your-own omelet feast on Sunday, November 15 from 8-12:30 p.m. in the gym. Tickets are \$12; \$10 in advance. Visit parish ministry booths to find ways you can use your talents to be active in our community. Proceeds will benefit the Capital Campaign – funds will go to pave a new parking lot and roof for our school.

Advanced tickets can be purchased in the school office during regular office hours.

SCRIPT Orders

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas gift giving! Also, don't forget that we stock Papa Murphy's gift cards, too! Order forms are available in the school office.

Papa Murphy's Pizza Fundraiser

Support our St. John Catholic School fundraiser at the Papa Murphy's Take and Bake Greenhouse Marketplace location on Tuesday, November 10. *Bring in your flyer for FREE cookie dough with any purchase.* Double your efforts with Papa Murphy's SCRIP, now available in the school office.



Calendar Reminders

Fall Fundraiser-www.udfundraising.com

Now through November 2

Open House – St. Joseph Notre Dame

Sunday, October 25, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Picture Make Up Day

October 29

Scoliosis Screening

October 29

San Lorenzo Village Halloween Party

October 31, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Open House – Bishop O'Dowd HS

Sunday, November 1, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Open House – Moreau Catholic HS

Saturday, November 14

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm.