

# St. Joseph's Messenger

*A BULLETIN FOR INSPIRING  
SCHOOL FAMILIES*

"GROUNDED IN THE TRADITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO FORMING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH FAITH, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND SERVICE TO OTHERS."

## FR. BLAKE'S FILES



I am excited for another school year. I am excited to see many familiar faces after a great summer. I welcome new students, families, and staff to our school. God has another great year in store for us! Our students have the blessing of learning about Jesus and the teachings of His Church. This experience should supplement the experience of faith at home. The first line of paragraph 2223 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children." When I reflect on parenting, I realize the difficulty of the task. Especially in our world today, there are a lot of things that strongly influence our young people. Our young people are so connected to technology. This is a blessing in many ways, but in many ways, it is also a curse. Our homes should be a place that our kids are formed and educated to live good and virtuous lives. A lot of the time social media and YouTube influence our kids to live contrary to the Gospel. With the dysfunction found in many families, it can feel like an uphill battle to make progress in the way Jesus calls us to live. It can be tempting to despair. We think that we cannot compete with the negative influence of society and our sinfulness. I want the St. Joseph Catholic School Community to know that you

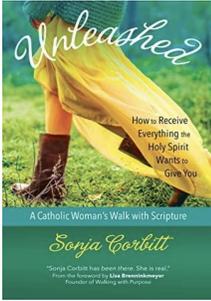
are invited and encouraged to join **Family Faith Formation programming on Wednesday evenings** at our church. The kick-off night is **Wednesday, September 28**. We are placing the emphasis on family as we begin faith formation this school year. We are no longer having Sunday school this year. We are bringing parents and kids together, from the youngest students to our Confirmation students, on Wednesday evenings. We are encouraging and challenging parents to not simply drop off their kids on Wednesday evenings but to walk through the doors with them and join us. In a pressure-free environment, parents will become more familiar with the faith topics that the students are learning on a weekly basis and then hopefully integrate the faith even more in their homes. If you missed our **parent meetings on September 7th & 8th**, please be in contact if you are hoping to be at Family Faith Formation. Registration for the children took place with these meetings. These meetings were an opportunity to inform parents about the changes in the programming this year and to speak about expectations. The more we come together in the name of the Lord, the better off we will be. God comes to our aid in this battle. My email is [frblake@sjsgr.org](mailto:frblake@sjsgr.org) if you have questions or are looking to register. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

*Fr. Blake*

## Feast Days and Special Days in September

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 3 - St. Gregory the Great         | 20 - Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions |
| 9 - St. Peter Claver              | 21 - St. Matthew  |
| 13 - St. John Chrysostom          | 23 - St. Pius of Pietrelcina                                    |
| 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross | 27 - St. Vincent de Paul  |
| 16 - Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian   | 30 - St. Jerome   |

## School Events

<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #8B4513; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <b>THEOLOGY ON TAP</b>  <small>GRAB A PINT &amp; EXPLORE YOUR FAITH!</small> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7 PM @ Rapids Brewing Co. Event Space Thursday, Sept 29th</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">A New Journey <i>Luke Spehar; Speaker</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Catholic Musician+songwriter, Minneapolis, MN</i> <a href="http://www.lukespehar.com">www.lukespehar.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>September 26th</u></b> School Open House &amp; Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>September 28th</u></b> Faith Formation Kicks Off!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Wednesday Evenings</u></b> Faith Formation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Book Study</u></b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Unleashed: How to Receive Everything the Holy Spirit Wants to Give You</i></b> by Sonja Corbitt</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/1594715998">smile.amazon.com/gp/product/1594715998</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Days and times to be announced soon!</i></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Keep up to date with St. Joseph's Church events by signing up for <i>flocknote!</i></p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.stjosephscatholic.org">www.stjosephscatholic.org</a></p>

## **Featured Saint:**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Feast Day: January 4

Patron Saint of: Catholic Schools

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is known for founding the first American religious community, first American Catholic school, and the first American Catholic orphanage. She had a great love of the Blessed Sacrament, and also desired to abandon her own will to follow the will of God. She was the mother of five children, and died at the age of 46. She was the first American-born citizen to be beatified in 1963, and canonized in 1975.

### **Prayer for Students**

O God,  
You called Elizabeth Ann Seton to be an instrument of your loving mercy  
Despite loss and sorrow, she was an example of hope and love.  
Inspire us with your Blessed Sacrament to live our life for others.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Teacher.  
Amen.

### **Prayer for Teachers**

Holy Father,  
You called Elizabeth Ann Seton to educate your children. Inspire us, by her example, to find your will in the present moment. Through her prayers, may we learn to teach others how to love like you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Teacher.  
Amen

**We wish you a safe and happy school year!**

***St. Joseph's School Catholic Identity Committee***

Sources: Dees, Jared. "St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Prayers for Teachers and Students". *Ave Maria Press*, 3 January 2011, <https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/2011/01/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-prayers-for/> st elizabeth ann seton ave maria press

"St. Elizabeth Ann Seton". *Franciscanmedia.org*. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-elizabeth-ann-seton/> st. elizabeth ann seton franciscan media

## September Virtue is FAITH

**FAITH is Believing in God and all that God has revealed.**

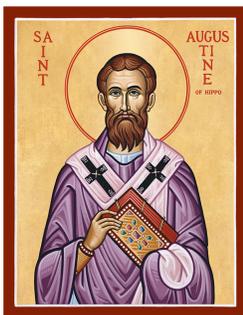
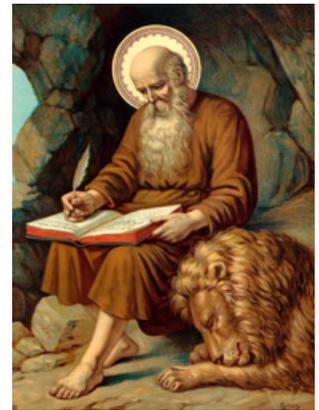


### PK-Gr. 2 will study Saint Martha

Saint Martha (Time of Jesus, Israel), believed in Jesus. She knew Jesus was one with God and could do anything. When her brother Lazarus died, Martha told Jesus, "If only You had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died." When Jesus asked Martha if she believed in him, she said yes-and Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead! **St. Martha's feast day is July 29.**

### Grades 3-5 will study St. Jerome

St. Jerome (347-419, Israel) studied in Rome and became a lawyer. After he was baptized, he began to study about God. He lived for years as a hermit in the Holy Land, and people said a lion lived with him! St. Jerome became so famous for knowing Scripture that the pope asked him to help translate the Bible into Latin so that more people at that time could read it. **The feast day of St. Jerome is September 30.**



### Grade 6 will study Augustine

St. Augustine (354-430, North Africa) was blessed with great intelligence but was burdened with an unruly heart. Although raised in the faith of his mother, St. Monica, who prayed for him to become a Christian, Augustine drifted away from the faith and lived an unholy life. He had a conversion experience, became a Christian, and eventually, became the Bishop of Hippo (North Africa). One of the quotes that best describes his faith is: "Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you." **The feast day of St. Augustine is August 28.**