

Dear Parents:

As I sit back and experience the culture of St. Joseph Parish School, I am always amazed at how so many people work together to make events successful for our school community. Thank you to our Home and School Association for their leadership on the Cookie Walk and for helping to organize the social gathering after the concert.

Thank you also to the teachers and school staff for their daily support of our students and their professionalism in working together to make the concert a success for our community.

We have another Fish Fry this Friday night sponsored by our Athletic Association. Be sure to take the time to volunteer to assist with this event.

As St. Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians, "We are one body in Christ and we do not stand alone."

Michael Brown
Principal

Nominate Your Favorite Catholic School Teacher!

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, January 28 to February 3, Catholic Financial Life is celebrating by holding their annual Give Back Contest!

Catholic school teachers serve an important role—to prepare the next generation for future success and reinforce Catholic values that will help children mature into Christ-like individuals. They help their students to live their faith beyond the walls of school buildings and navigate the intersection of faith and culture. So much of what teachers do has a profound impact on the lives of students.

How It Works

Nominate a Catholic school teacher for a chance to receive a \$500 prize in addition to a \$4,000 donation to their school. **Submission deadline is January 5, 2024.** Voting will take place from January 15-19 on Catholic Financial Life's website. They'll post the top ten vote leaders daily on their Facebook page.

[NOMINATE YOUR TEACHER TODAY](#)

Dates to Remember

Friday, December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass Times 12/7 6:30pm & 12/8 8:00am
Athletic Fish Fry 4:00-7:00pm Dine In or Carryout
Sunday, December 10th - Breakfast w/St. Nick 9:00am-Noon
Thursday, December 14th - Piano Recital @ 2:30pm in the Day Chapel
Saturday, December 16th - 5th & 6th Grades Parent Mass @ 4:00pm Mass
Tuesday, December 19th - Spelling Bee @ 12:45pm
Friday, December 22nd - No School / Christmas Break Begins
Sunday, December 24th - Mass Times are 12/23 4:00pm and 12/24 9:30am
Monday, December 25th - HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS! Mass Times are 12/24 4:00pm & 9:00pm 12/25 9:30am



Do you recognize this blanket. It was left behind after the concert last night. Please call the School Office at 262-662-2737 to claim.

Support the 8th Graders

At the Fish Fry this Friday, our 8th graders will be offering desserts. A free will offering will assist in supporting their 8th grade field trip to Chicago in the spring. There will also be a sugar cookie decorating kit for parents to purchase to use at home for \$20.



Inclement Weather / School Closing

If Mukwonago Public Schools close due to inclement weather, St. Joseph School will also be closed, regardless if our school name is listed on local tv/radio stations. If school closes once the day has started, parents will be notified via email. If we start school with a two hour delay, the staff will report to school between 9:30-9:45am. Please do not drop your child off before 9:30am, as there may not be adult supervision available.

Weekend Parent Mass Schedule

December 16th	4:00pm	5th/6th	March 16th	4:00pm	3rd
January 28th	8:30am	Campus Ministry Team	April 14th	8:30am	1st/2nd
February 18th	10:30am	4th	May 5th	10:30am	5K

Secret Santa

Thank you to all our helpers for another successful Secret Santa Shop!

It is so much fun to watch all the kids carefully select the perfect gift or gifts for their loved ones.



Thank you again to all our volunteers. Whether you helped with our set up Thursday, the event Friday, donated items or a combination of the 3, we could not do it without you!

This year's event may be over, but we work hard all year long to make the event a success. If you find great deals on items you like to donate, we would be grateful. Items should be new, and the price paid \$10 or less. If you come across some great after Christmas clearance deals on tissue paper, gift bags (medium and large especially) or tape, we can use it for next year!

Any donated items can be brought to the School Office with a note "Secret Santa", and we will take care of it!

Thank you all for a great event!



The 7th graders held a successful food drive last month. Watch for the 5th & 6th grade sponsored food drive the week of January 8th.



Ms. Sofie helping a student with math.

Father Andy makes time in his busy week to come visit the classrooms.



Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry collection of new socks, gloves and hats continues until next Friday, December 15th. This week they are collecting Mittens/Gloves and next week is Socks. Next week, they will also collect any additional winter items, including coats & blankets.

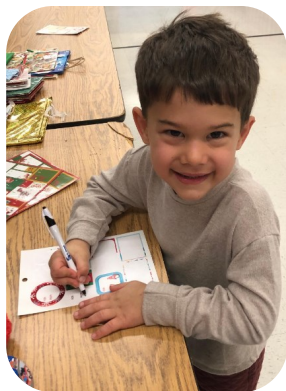
Here is a Youtube Link for their Reverse Advent Collection -

<https://youtu.be/M8odfhoTZUA>

This month's trait is Give. The Campus Ministry Representatives made salt dough and will be going to each classroom to make ornaments with the students.



Secret Santa shopping is a busy day for all. The students were all smiles as they did their shopping and wrapping their gifts.



Our 1st annual Cookie Walk was a big success. We have some amazing cooks and the cookies all looked delicious. The children were kept busy while their parents shopped or worked.





Christmas Concert



Athletic News



Fish Fry Volunteer Opportunity

Home and School Volunteer Event Schedule Fish Fry dates are below. If you can't make your grade level suggested date, feel free to sign up for any date that works for you.

Dec 8 - Grade 7 **We are in desperate need of volunteers this coming Friday.**

Jan 12 - Grade 6

Mar 1 - Grade 2

Feb 9 - Grade 5

Mar 8 - Grade 1

Feb 16 - Grade 4

Mar 15 - 5K

Feb 23 - Grade 3

Mar 22 - 3K & 4K

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094DABAF23ABFB6-44843333-fish>

Volunteer Descriptions Link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rN2NalvcxSGfNZCSWbogc9Hg9H41odrbFxRZ9outDvo/edit?usp=sharing>

2024 Junior Knights

St. Joseph Junior Knights Basketball program is going into our 6th season. This program is geared to students in 1st through 4th grade. The season occurs on Saturday mornings for 6 weeks from mid January to the end of February. The Junior Knights program is designed to give our younger children a taste of the game of basketball. The children will learn the rules, basic drills, positions and have a chance to play the game. Our adjustable hoops enable the 1st and 2nd graders the opportunity to make baskets without being discouraged. During practice things are kept fun while also teaching the kids how to play the game.

2024 Dates: January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17 and (Feb 24 snow date if needed) with scheduled times to be decided between 8AM to 12PM based on grade level and number of teams. We are also looking for parent volunteers to head coach or assist, indicate on form if interested.

A registration link can be found on the website under Parish, then Athletics, then the basketball tab or click the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-X_ZA2NLgdHQ-oQY51-su0kqIKRdSYz6nrkjou0G9KkEOpA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Registration is due by December 18, 2023 to allow proper time for season planning.

Fee: \$50 per player for Registration and T-shirt. (Make Checks Payable to St. Joseph Athletics.) Please send to School Office in an envelope marked St Joseph Junior Knights. Please include your family name in the envelope with the check so credit is applied to your registrant(s).

St. Joseph School
Attn: Athletics Junior Knights
S89W22650 Milwaukee Ave
Big Bend, WI 53103

2023-24 Middle School Basketball Season News

Due to scheduling issues with the league the regular season was pushed back one week to Dec 9-10. Our middle school players are anxiously awaiting the beginning of the season. We will periodically post highlights and photos of the season here. Parents please forward game pictures and highlights throughout the season to be featured here in the Knightly News to athletics@stjoesbb.com.

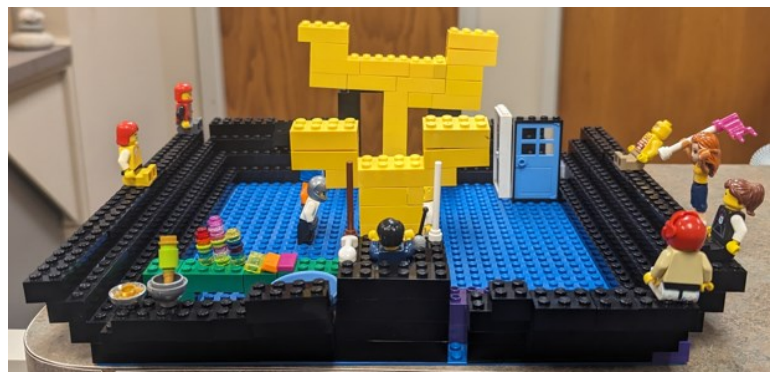
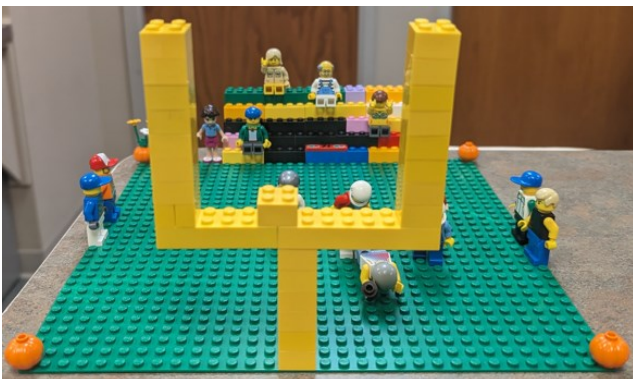


Girl Scouts Troop 11134

The Daisies and Brownies of Troop 11134 met on Wednesday, November 15th to make a special Christmas gift for home - a jar with ingredients to make Santa's favorite cookies! Daisies earned their "Think Like a Citizen Scientist" badge and Brownies earned their "Home Scientist" badge. They experimented with oil & water (seeing they don't mix!), saw static electricity pick up paper bits and inflated a balloon with baking soda & vinegar. The meeting wrapped up making huge bubbles outside!



Lego Club



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

St. Joseph Parish, Big Bend, WI
Fr. Andrew Kysely, Administrator

One Minute Meditations

St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England, St. Edmund left a brilliant academic career at Oxford to become a Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.



Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him"
(Luke 2:40).



A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

Encourage joyful anticipation. As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. *"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me"* (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

Focus on prayer. Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every

soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

Serve. Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should

continuously ask God what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the



Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.

Have a peaceful, Merry Christmas!

Do you aim for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, Christmas comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebration:

Be realistic. It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.



Soothe the beast. Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas frame of mind.

Reach out. Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else's. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy.

Seek the eternal. Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remind yourself of what is most important about Christmas.

from Scripture

Luke 2:22-40, Encountering God in the ordinary

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable, and His family was quite ordinary. In fact, when it was time to present Jesus in the temple, His parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, and instead made the offering of the poor – two pigeons. As faithful Jews, they did all that was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized Him as the Messiah.



Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be happy with Him forever.

Q & A How can I make Christmas joy last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord. By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:



Feast of the Holy Family, December 31. Gather for a meal with loved ones, or contact out-of-town friends or family.

Solemnity of Mary,

Mother of God, January 1.

Dedicate a Rosary to the Blessed Mother, asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

Epiphany, January 7. The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing Him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8. Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 3 – First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked St. Juan to carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his *tilma*, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 15 – St. Maria di Rosa (1855). Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula was renowned for holiness, generosity, and concern for the sick. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840. She took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa di Rosa.

December 27 – St. John the Beloved (1st Century). As an apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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2023 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 December Light the first violet candle in your Advent wreath and pray with today's Gospel, <i>Mark 13:33-37.</i>	4 Choose a way you can grow closer to Christ in Advent: more mental prayer, penance, almsgiving, Sacraments.	5 Display the stable for the Nativity Scene. Add figures gradually throughout Advent.	6 St. Nicholas of Myra Perform a simple act of kindness for someone today in honor of this generous saint.	7 On the Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and teacher, pray for all clergy in the Church.	8 The Immaculate Conception of Mary Celebrate by attending Mass and praying a Rosary for our country.	9 Prepare heart and soul to welcome Christ. Make an examination of conscience and attend Confession.
10 Light the second violet candle and meditate on <i>Mark 1:1-8.</i>	11 Offer a small sacrifice out of love for Jesus, who offered Himself up for love of you.	12 Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray for all pregnant women and thank God for the gift of new life.	13 Advent is a busy time for parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can serve.	14 In prayer, forgive someone who has hurt you. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.	15 Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS or www.catholicrelief.org) to see how you can contribute.	16 Las Posadas begins today honoring Mary's and Joseph's search for shelter. Gather friends and go caroling.
17 <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Pray with <i>John 1:6-9, 19-28.</i>	18 Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.	19 Feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or hungry for human kindness.	20 Review your "Advent resolutions" and renew your commitment to them.	21 Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament today to ready your heart for the arrival of the King.	22 Reflect on how your relationship with Christ grew this Advent. Thank Him for the graces you received.	23 Make an effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.
24 The fourth week of Advent lasts only one day. Meditate on the great news the angel brought (see <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>).	25 <i>Rejoice!</i> Place the Christ Child in the manger. Go to Mass today and rejoice!	<i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</i>				