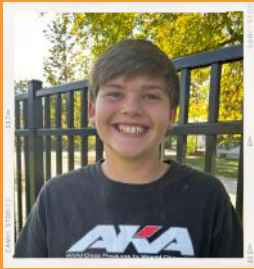


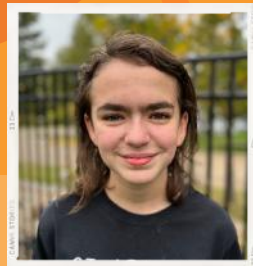
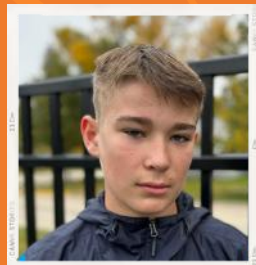
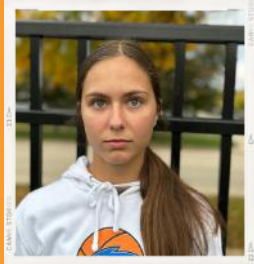
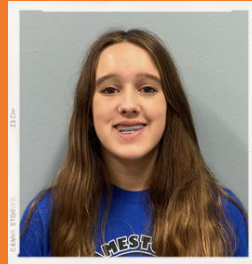
ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY PARENT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

stjohnsacademynd.org



*Introducing our
8th Grade Class*



Important Dates

- October 2nd & 3rd - Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 6th - No School
- October 9th - Flu Shot Clinic
- October 13th - First Friday Early Dismissal - 11:45 AM
- October 14th - HOPE Dinner
- October 18th - Kids' Kingdom Picture Day
- October 19th & 20th - No School
- October 29th - End of Q1
- October 31st - Happy Halloween



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

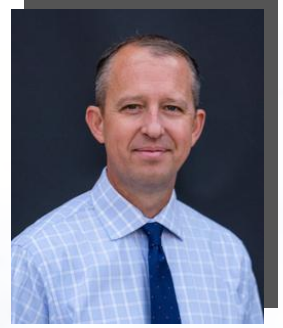
ST. JOHN'S



ACADEMY

Families of St. John's Academy,

Fall greetings from St. John's Academy. It is amazing how fast the month of September has flown by. As we settle into the school year, I want to express that even in my sixth year, I continue to be impressed with everyone who is involved with SJA. We have respectful, hardworking, and grateful students. The teachers and staff continue to amaze me with their abilities, dedication, and focus. The commitment from our PTO, parent-volunteers, school board, and HOPE Committee is beyond impressive. On a daily basis, I'm reminded of what a blessing it is to be at SJA. Furthermore, I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone who works so hard to make the Academy such a special place.



As we shift gears to the month of October there are few items that I wanted to highlight.

A few notes for the month of October: Our annual HOPE Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th. We would love to have you join us on this special evening. We require tickets to be purchased in advance with a deadline of Friday, October 6th. Contact Sarah Sankey for more information at 252.3397. The proceeds from the HOPE dinner directly benefit all students at St. John's Academy. A huge thank you to all our HOPE Committee members who have dedicated a vast amount of time and energy to make the evening successful.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: A reminder of parent teacher conferences scheduled for Monday, October 2nd and Tuesday, October 3rd. K through 5th grade families should register via PTC fast: [Parent/Teacher Conferences | St. John's Academy \(stjohnsacademynd.org\)](https://stjohnsacademynd.org). 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade parents can visit with Mrs. Cramer, Eckroth, Higgins, and Yatskis on a first-come, first-serve basis on Monday and Tuesday between the hours of 3:00-6:30pm. Specialists will be available from 3:00-6:30 on Monday.

School Happenings: Fall MAP testing has been completed! The students should be commended for working through this process and giving their best efforts. These fall tests provide a baseline for us to measure the progress that will take place for the school year and to assist in identifying where additional support could be provided. The goal is to see abundant growth and I am excited to watch our students develop throughout the school year.

This is a wonderful and busy time of year. Enjoy the remaining days before the white stuff arrives. May God bless you and your loved ones!

In Christ,

Jeff Trumbauer

Principal - St. John's Academy



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MORE INFO @ STJOHNSACADEMYND.ORG



Mrs. Mahoney's Kids' Kingdom

Dear Kids' K School Families,

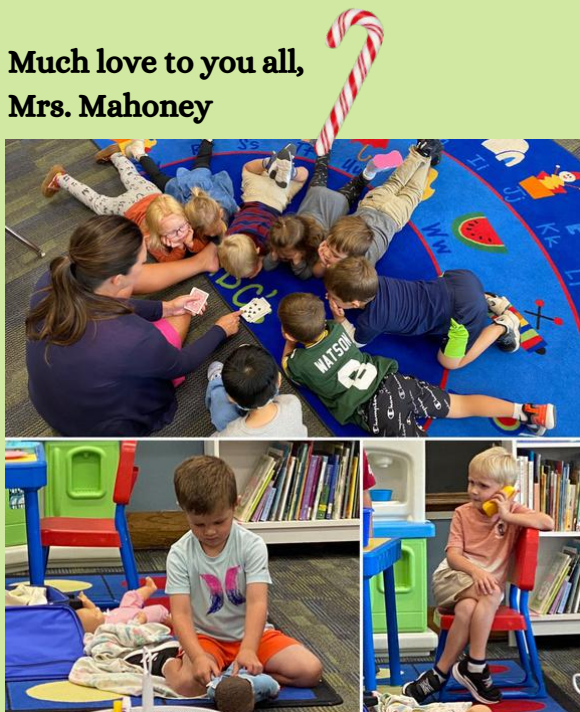
The world knows Santa Claus as a symbol of Christmas, but he is actually a modernized version of Saint Nicholas, a devoted Bishop known for his generosity and secret gift giving. An only child, Nicholas was raised by wealthy Christian parents who taught him, through their example, about the importance of giving to others. Unfortunately, he lost them both to illness when he was still young. Nicholas obeyed Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor" by using his entire inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. Young Nicholas went on to become a Bishop at just 30 years old. He became known for his good deeds and selfless charity.

Along with his kindness, he performed miracles for the poor and unhappy. Most often his generosity was done at night and anonymously. In fact, the tradition of Christmas presents came from Saint Nicholas' habit of giving gifts in secret. He was known for throwing gold coins into open windows for those in need, at night. The coins often landed in shoes and stockings that were hung to dry and this became the model for Santa...along with Bishop Nicholas' red robe. (The candy cane is said to have been in tribute to Bishop Nicholas' staff.)

Through the centuries, the continued devotion to Saint Nicholas extended to all parts of Europe. In 1621, the Dutch brought the traditions of Saint Nicholas' Feast Day (December 6) to North America. The Dutch called him 'Sinterklaas.' The name evolved into 'Santa Claus' by the English-speaking settlers and soon many joined the tradition of putting shoes outside your door, or hanging socks, on the eve of his Feast Day. Eventually, this tradition of leaving out shoes and stockings (filled with hay and carrots for Saint Nicholas' white horse) the evening of December 5th, shifted to Christmas Eve. Yet, in some countries, children still wake to find chocolate gold coins, oranges, and candy canes on Saint Nicholas's Day.

Through a lifetime of selfless acts, Saint Nicholas gained a reputation for himself as a father figure to all children that has lasted since the fourth century, whether they call him Santa, Father Christmas, Sinterklaas, or Old Saint Nick!

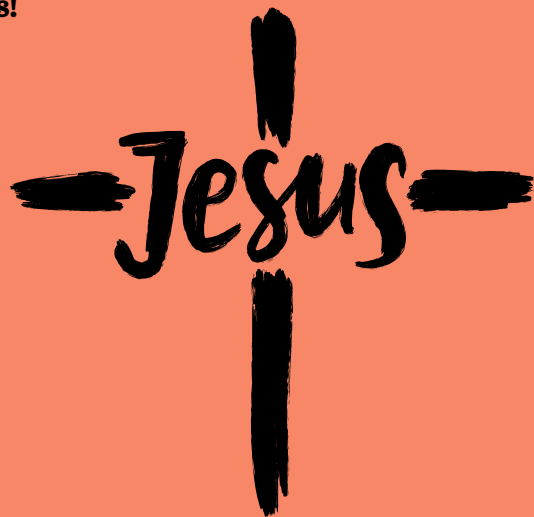
Much love to you all,
Mrs. Mahoney



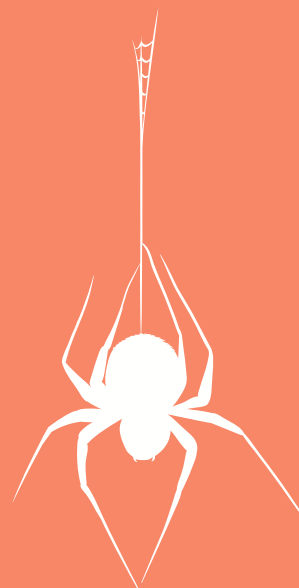


Mrs. Gange's Kids' Kingdom

St. Veronica is the Saint that I have chosen for our Kids Kingdom classroom. She is the saint who gave Jesus the cloth to wipe his face as he was headed to His Crucifixion. Our Kids Kingdom kids see her every day when we are in Chapel. She is displayed on the South wall giving Jesus the cloth. Her all-feast day is July 12th, but we will take time to study & learn all about her December 12th instead. That is her half feast day until her real feast day in 6 months!



In October in Kids Kingdom, we are going to spend some time talking about bats & spiders. After we are done with that right before Halloween, we are going to spend some time dissecting pumpkins and learning about all the parts of pumpkins.



Mr. Horgan's Physical Education


St. Sebastian is the saint selected for Physical Education class for the 2023-2024 school year. St. Sebastian was born in 255 and attended school in Milan, Italy as a boy. His concern about the persecution of Christians motivated him to find opportunities to encourage Christians. Thus, he joined the Roman army in 283. In time, his Christianity was discovered and he was sentenced to death by the Emperor. He was tied to a stake and shot with arrows. His executioners left him for dead but he survived and was nursed back to health. Undeterred by his "first martyrdom," he summoned all his courage and confronted the Emperor to denounce treatment of Christians. This resulted in the "second martyrdom" of St. Sebastian. The Emperor sentenced him to be beaten to death with clubs and thrown into a sewer. St. Sebastian died a martyr in 288.

St. Sebastian is the patron of athletes, archers, soldiers, police and physicians. His intercession is sought for many reasons but most especially when seeking courage. St. Sebastian's feast day is January 20th.





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Mrs. Neville's Pre-K

Pre-K has been very busy! We've been having so much fun playing and learning together. Here are some of the last month's highlights:

- During our apple unit, we did lots of apple activities: apple themed centers and apple tasting were our favorites
- We visited the middle school's pet turtle, Kevin. We loved watching it swim in it's tank!
- To celebrate Jamestown High School homecoming, we wore our Blue Jay gear!
- Each class picked a saint for the year. I chose St. Joseph for the pre-k class. He is the patron saint of carpenters and caring for children who are not yours. His feast days are March 19th and May 1st.





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For more information on our Community of Saints program, visit:
www.stjohnsacademynd.org

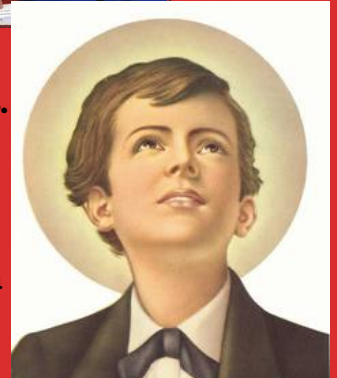
Kindergarten



We are off to a great start in kindergarten. Our days have been flying by. In reading we have spent time reading stories, learning new words and even reading our first book together. In math the students have explored with teddy bears, pattern blocks and linking cubes. In Social Studies we spent time creating All About Me memory books. Science has us learning about living and nonliving things. The favorite activity was determining which worm was living: gummy worm or earthworm. For religion we have been reading Bible stories and learning about saints. We know we are having fun in kindergarten when the students can't believe it is time to go home.



Saint Dominic Savio was chosen to be our classroom saint. Dominic Savio was born in Italy in 1842. He worked hard and always followed the rules. When he was seven, he was allowed to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. The customary age at that time was 12. He wrote in his journal 4 promises. The first one was to go to Confession often, and as frequently to Holy Communion as my confessor allows. The second promise was to sanctify the Sundays and festivals in a special manner. The third one was that his friends shall be Jesus and Mary. His fourth promise was death rather than sin. Dominic fell ill and passed away at the age of 15.



Library



It is officially Fall. That means it is time to “Fall” into a good book. Things have been busy in the library. Students have many new books that were added to the library over the summer to read!

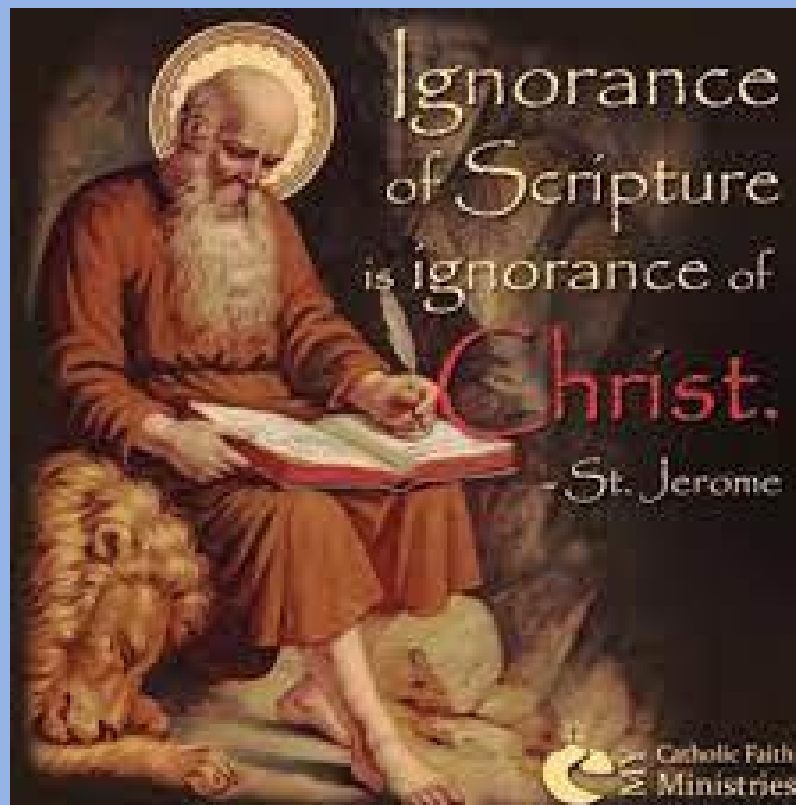
Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them to become bolder, prouder, and stronger readers. AND... as always, every book they buy earns rewards for our school.

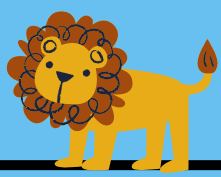
Mark your calendars, the Scholastic Book Fair will be taking place October 2nd and 3rd from 3:15-6:30. October 4th from 3-4 and October 5th from 3-3:30. Purchases will include sales tax as per Scholastic’s sales tax policy.



After School
October 2nd - 5th

The library’s Patron Saint is St. Jerome. St Jerome is the Patron Saint of scholars and libraries. His feast day is September 30th. St. Jerome had a vision of Jesus and Jesus told him he was not following the ways of the Church. St. Jerome then devoted his life to studying the Bible.





First Grade



Mrs. Schafer's Class

Mrs. Schafer's first grade class's saint is St. Francis of Assisi. He was born in 1182 and died in 1226. He is known as the "Founder of the Franciscans". His feast day is October 4th. He is the patron saint of the environment, people who love nature, animals and zoos, and families. We are excited to learn more about him!



Mrs. Hansen's Class

The Fabulous First Graders have been busy as you can see! They are exploring, learning more about God, and sharing ideas which is the key! Science lessons have them studying the plant parts and how they grow. Our Artist in Residence helps them work with clay just like a pro!

We are also learning more each day about our classroom Saints. Mrs. Hansen's class has St. Christopher who is the Saint of travel, long journeys, and transportation. We are discovering historical news about our Saints. We will have lots of things to share with you during our conferences!



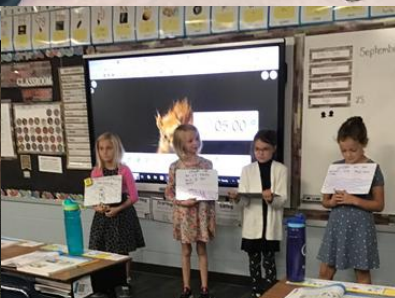
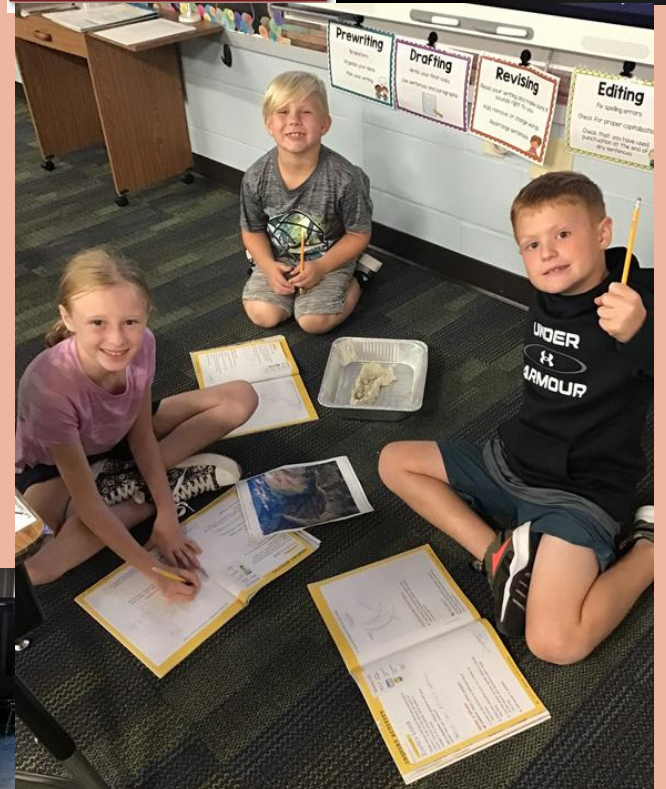
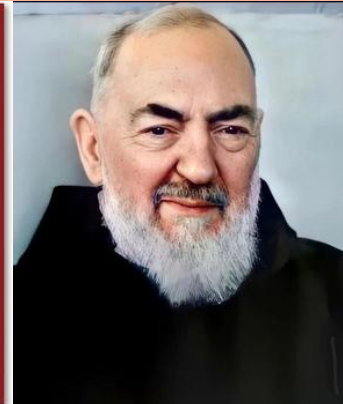
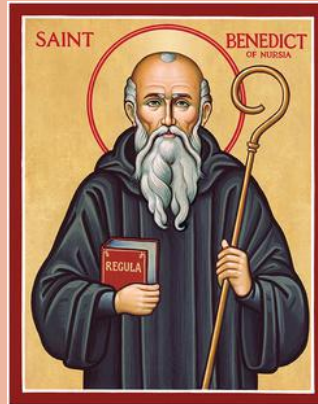


Second Grade



The 2nd Grade classes have been busy settling into a new school year. This month we had fun learning about shapes while playing with clay and playdoh during our Artist in Residence time. During religion, we have been learning about our classroom saints. Mrs. Bata's classroom Saint is St. Benedict. His feast day is July 11th, and he is the patron saint of Europe and students. St. Benedict is often pictured with a bell, a broken tray, and a raven. St. Benedict believed that people needed work and study for a balanced life. Mrs. Rene's classroom saint is St. Padre Pio. He is the patron saint for Penance and Reconciliation and his feast day is September 23rd. Padre Pio heard millions of confessions during his lifetime. He had the gift of healing people and knowing what was in their hearts when they came to confession. He filled people's hearts with peace and helped them to love God.

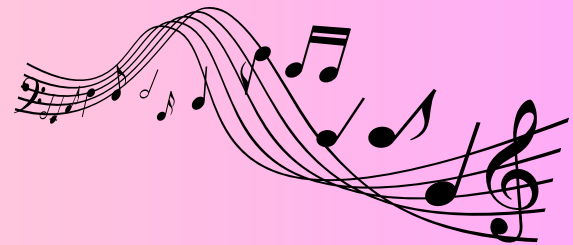
We also met and colored with our prayer partners from Mrs. Neville's Pre-K class. It has been a fun and busy month in 2nd Grade!



Music News



Our Grandparent Mass was held on Friday, September 15 at St. James Basilica. Students were selected to help with the Mass. After the Mass Grandparents were invited back to St. John's Academy for refreshments and to see the school and their grandchild's classrooms.



The Saint for Music Class is Saint Cecilia
Date of Birth: 2nd Century – 180 AD
Died: 3rd Century – November 22, 230 AD
Feast Day: November 22

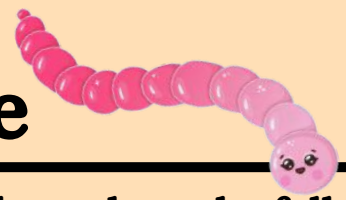
Patron Saint of Music and Musicians because she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married.

- Cecilia was born to a wealthy Christian family in Rome. As a child she vowed her virginity to God.
- Her father had her married against her will to the future Saint Valerian, then a Pagen. She told him that an angel of God was protecting her virginity and would harm anyone who tried to take it away. He wanted to see the angel. She said he would if he were baptized. She converted him to Christianity.
- Officials exhumed her body in 1599 and found her body to be incorrupt (undecayed) , the first of all incorrupt Saints. They also reported a mysterious and delightful flower-like oder from her coffin.
- Her husband, Valerian, was martyred for his faith before her.
- Saint Cecilia was martyred for her refusal to worship false gods and her burying of the dead.
- Saint Cecilia is one of seven women commemorated by name in the Roman Cannon.
- Many music compositions were written in her memory. One being John Dryden's poem "A Song for Saint Cecilia's Day" was set to music by Handel in his "Ode for Saint Cecilia Mass.

Grandparent Day Mass at SJA



Third Grade



Wow... can you believe that these 3rd graders have done the following?

- 1. Saved Fred (a gummy worm) with a life preserver and GREAT COMMUNICATION SKILLS?!**
- 2. Worked hard to "blast" their reading goals out of the water!?!**
- 3. Have found MULTIPLE ways to solve a multitude of math equations!**
- 4. Started cursive**
- 5. Have been learning about clay during their artist in residence time!**



Our classroom saint:

St. Therèse of Lisieux

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love." "Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them."

Feast Day: October 1st

Patron Saint of: missions (missionaries), the sick, florists

Some facts:

- Saint Therèse wrote a journal and it was published, 'Story of a Soul'**
- She passed away at the young age of 24.**
- She was a Carmelite nun.**
- Her parents were the first spouses to be canonized together.**
- St. Therese worked hard to do small things with great love for Jesus!**



Fourth Grade



St Maria Goretti

We have enjoyed getting to know our classroom saint, St. Maria Goretti. Maria was known for having a strong faith, devotion to the Sacraments and strong desire to live a life pleasing to God. She was just 11 years old when she was attacked by 19-year-old Alessandro who had been trying to pursue her for some time. In an effort to preserve her purity, she fought back screaming "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!". Upon hearing this, Alessandro stabbed her eleven times and then three more times as she tried to escape. Maria was taken to the hospital and efforts were made to try and repair the extensive damage to her body. This was done without any pain reducing medication because the doctors felt that using it would cause immediate death. Maria endured an unimaginable amount of pain with grace and forgiveness. Before she died, she forgave Alessandro and said that she wanted to see him in Heaven with her someday. Alessandro spent the next 27 years in prison eventually having a conversion after having a dream in which Maria gave him 14 lilies, one for each stab wound. When he was released, he immediately went to beg forgiveness from Maria's mother. They were both present at the canonization of Maria which happened on June 24th, 1950, by Pope Pius XII. She is the patron saint of youth, young women, purity and victims of abuse.

I chose St Maria Goretti for our classroom saint because of her purity, her desire to follow God's plan and her beautiful witness of forgiveness. St. Maria Goretti, pray for us!

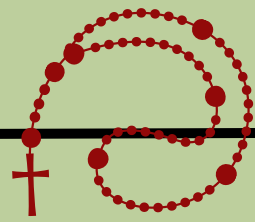


Artist-in-Residence

One of the highlights of September in fourth grade has been using clay to make pottery with our Artist-in-Residence. The students have enjoyed being creative and playing with the clay.

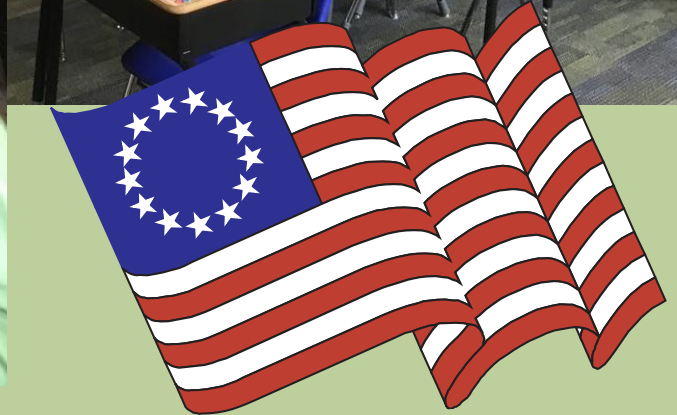
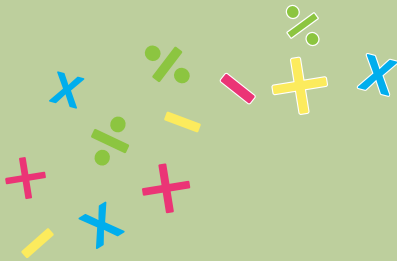


Fifth Grade



We are off to a great start this year!

It's surprising how fast the month has gone by as we were busy reviewing and getting into a routine. We are working on our multiplication facts, reviewing vowel sounds, plot/characters/setting, kinds/parts of sentences, and learning about early American civilizations.



We have started learning about our classroom saint: Saint John Bosco. Here are some of the things we have learned so far:

- He was born in Piedmont, Italy in 1815.
- He performed circus acts and then taught people about God.
- He was a priest.
- He helped the boys who lived on the streets with schooling and eventually helped the girls too.
- He died in 1888.
- He is the patron of young people.
- His Feast Day is January 31.



Middle School

The St. John's Academy Middle School is off to a strong start! The 6th graders quickly learned the ropes and are now old pros in dealing with the fast-paced day in middle school. They were excited to celebrate their first National Trail Mix Day. There are so many fun things to celebrate in life; we try not to miss an opportunity!

The expectations of middle school students are high. They are expected to work hard, play hard, and pray hard. We want our students to look forward to school, to love learning, to learn how to learn and problem solve, to look for the best in every situation, and to find God in their simple day-to-day. Life can be amazing when students have these incredible skills.

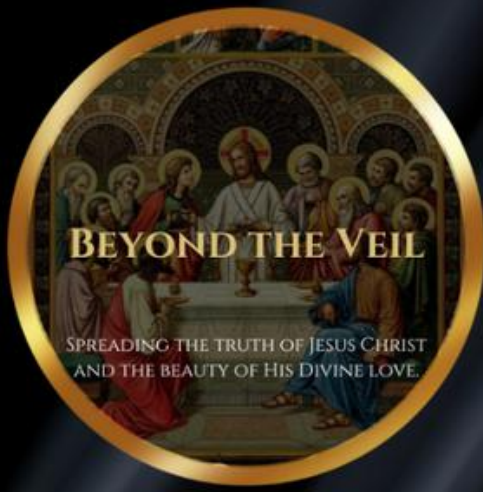
Mrs. Yatskis gifted each 6th grader with a cell phone; their very own yPhone which is used frequently in class. It is so easy to partner up in class when we use our yPhone contacts. (Please, check out the pictures to fully appreciate this gift. 😊)

SJA Middle School...simply the best place to be!



In future newsletters, we middle school teachers will share with you about the amazing saints we have chosen as patrons for our classrooms. We anticipate that you'll love learning about the lives of St. Faustina, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Teresa of Culcutta, and St. Maximilian Kolbe. Their virtuous lives are truly inspiring, teaching our students and us how to live lives dedicated to sharing Christ's love with the world.





Exploring the invisible realities of the existence of God.

The King of Ages

September 16th, Word Among Us: DAILY MEDITATION: 1 TIMOTHY 1:15-17

1 Tm 1:15-17

Beloved: This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost. But for that reason I was mercifully treated, so that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life. To the king of ages, incorruptible, invisible, the only God, honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The king of ages, incorruptible, invisible, the only God. (1 Timothy 1:17)

Our sun burns at 27 million degrees at its hottest point. The only star and sole source of light within our solar system, it provides warmth for our planet from 93 million miles away. It contains 99.86 percent of the mass in our entire solar system and could hold 1.3 million earths within itself. At dusk and dawn, its light dances across the horizon and creates beauty that no painting, photo, or video can fully replicate. But even the sun, with all its power and radiance, is only a glimmer compared to the “king of ages, incorruptible, invisible, the only God,” who “dwells in unapproachable light” (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16).

This is how vast and glorious our God is! His beauty and goodness exceed our ability to comprehend. No cathedral or hymn, no religious painting or sculpture, could even come close to truly capturing the glory of God. After a glimpse of the transfigured Christ, even the great theologian St. Thomas Aquinas declared, “All that I have written seems like straw.”

How amazing it is that this magnificent God wants us to know and love him! That’s why he created us in his image and likeness—so that we could have a relationship with him. Not only that, but he made that relationship even more personal when he sent his Son. The infinitely perfect God made himself visible and approachable by entering his creation in the person of Jesus Christ. This same God, who burns brighter than the sun, has a heart that burns for you. Since before time began, the Lord has had you on his mind—and he longs to spend eternity with you!

This should take our breath away! Yet we often forget these amazing realities. So today, take a moment to slow down. Contemplate the greatness of your God. Let the Spirit fill your heart with wonder and praise that you are loved by the King of ages, the only God.

“Lord, I stand in awe of your glory. Thank you for loving me!”

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O most loving Father, grant that I may at last gaze forever upon the unveiled face of your beloved Son. - St. Thomas Aquinas



Sept.-Oct. Breakfast 2023

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Oct.2 Breakfast Pizza Cereal Fruit	3 Muffin/Omelet Cereal Fruit	4 Yogurt Cereal Fruit	5 Egg Bake Bites Cereal Fruit	6 NO SCHOOL	
9 Egg Cheese Biscuit Cereal Fruit	10 Cereal Bar Cereal Fruit	11 Pancakes/Syrup Cereal & Fruit	12 Poptart Cereal Fruit	13 Caramel Rolls Cereal Fruit	
16 Breakfast Pizza Cereal Fruit	17 Poptart Cereal Fruit	18 French Toast Cereal Fruit	19 NO SCHOOL	20 NO SCHOOL	



Sept.-Oct. Lunch 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
25 Chicken Burger Baked Beans Ham & Cheese Sandwich	26 Pizza Sticks Dipping Sauce Turkey Sandwich	27 Sloppy Joes Corn Ham & Turkey Wrap	28 Chicken Nuggets Potato Wedges Ham & Cheese Sandwich	29 Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich
Oct 2 Cheese Burger Potato Smiles Ham & Cheese Sandwich	3 Scalloped Potato & Ham Bread Stick Turkey Sandwich	4 Teriyaki Chicken Veggie Fried Rice Breadstick Ham Turkey Wrap	5 Chicken Alfredo Breadstick Ham & Cheese Sandwich	6 No School
9 Hot Dog Baked Beans Ham & Cheese Sandwich	10 Chili/Cheese Breadstick Turkey Sandwich	11 Chicken Nuggets Corn Ham & Turkey Wrap	12 Meatballs/Gravy Mashed Potato Roll Ham & Cheese	13 Pizza Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Early Out
16 BQ Pork on Bun Corn Ham & Cheese Sandwich	17 Mini Corn Dogs Baked Beans Turkey Sandwich	18 Taco/Bag Salsa Ham & Turkey Wrap	19 Education Convention	20 No School

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