

Saints News

*"St. Joseph School, following the Mission of Christ,
Where we Learn Our Faith, Live our Faith and Prepare for the Future"
~ St. Joseph Mission Statement*

November 2017

Dear St. Joseph Families,

One of the first life skills taught to every child is the importance of always saying "please" and "thank you." Each day, we all have countless occasions to say "thanks." But it is good that once a year our entire country stops to count our blessings, celebrate with family and friends, and express our gratitude to Almighty God.

For Catholics, there is no greater act of thanksgiving than the celebration of the Holy Eucharist – a word that comes from the Greek word for "thanksgiving."

Across Central Illinois, homes will be filled with the enticing smells of turkeys and pies and the sounds of laughter and football. We have many reasons to lift our hearts and minds to God. At the same time, let us also be very mindful of those in our community and our world who will spend this holiday without the comfort of food, family, or faith. May God bless you and your loves ones this Thanksgiving.

We begin the month of November by celebrating the solemnity of All Saints when we remember those that have gone before us in holiness. Each classroom and area of the school has chosen a patron saint, and we pray that we will have the courage to imitate their example of faith in our own lives.

Preschool	St. Anne
KC	St. Patrick
1st	St. Nicholas
2nd	St. Vincent de Paul
3rd	St. Pope John Paul II
4th	St. Thomas Aquinas
5th	St. Maximilian Kolbe
6th	Blessed Chiara Luce Badano
7th	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
8th	St. Francis of Assisi
Resource	St. Teresa of Avila
Music	St. Cecilia
P.E.	St. Sebastian
Office	St. Joseph
Computer	St. Isidora of Seville
Library	St. Therese
Student Services	St. Christopher

November has arrived with a sense of anticipation of the upcoming holiday season. Neighborhoods are decorated with the colors of autumn and the air is filled with a fresh crispness. How does your family celebrate Thanksgiving? Do you travel to spend Thanksgiving with family? Maybe you have family who will travel to spend the holiday with you. Do you gather around the dining room table and enjoy a delicious dinner with your family? Maybe after dinner your family likes to relax by a crackling fire and play a board game together. Some families enjoy a nice walk in the woods after Thanksgiving dinner. One of God's greatest gifts to us is our family and Thanksgiving is the perfect time to enjoy the company of our parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandparents and other relatives. The St. Joseph Staff and I wish everyone a very blessed Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends.

God Bless,

Mrs. Rogers and St. Joseph Staff

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Spanish is Back!

This year we will be implementing a new program for Spanish: Mango! Mango is an online language learning resource where students will work at a pace best for them. In addition, we will also have a monthly Spanish Enrichment class taught by Miss Katie Schwanke!

No Pre/After Care

There will be no school or pre/after care on Tuesday, November 21st, Wednesday, November 22nd, Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th due to Parent/Teacher Conferences and the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Homework Assistance" Time

St. Joseph Support Staff is once again offering "Homework Assistance" sessions before school for all students. Your child may come into the school Tuesday – Friday from 8:15am-8:45am and go to the computer lab to receive extra instruction on assignments they did not understand. The Support Staff is also providing a Lunch Study Hall for those in grades 4-8 as a time to complete any additional homework, or receive assistance on assignments. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

Lee Denim Day

Thank you to all who participated by donating money to wear pink and denim. We raised \$216.48 for the American Cancer Society. Thank you!!

Picture Retake Day

Don't forget... picture retake day is Thursday, November 9th. This is if your child(ren) missed picture day on October 18th, or you wish to have them retaken. Also, don't forget your envelopes or picture packets!

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

We have not received all of our walk-a-thon money yet. If you have not paid your \$125, please send it to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you for doing your part to help our school offset tuition costs.

It's Time to Schedule Parent/Teacher Conferences

St. Joseph School is once again using the system called "SignUpGenius.com" for scheduling parent conferences on Monday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 21st. SignUpGenius is a real-time center where all our parents can login and choose a convenient time for your family to have parent/teacher conferences.

All families have been emailed so please sign up if you haven't already! If you have any questions regarding how to sign up, please contact Mrs. Tice at schoolsecretary@stjosephschoolpekin.com.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to come meet with your child(ren)'s teacher. We truly believe the student's first teacher is the parents and we are here to support you and your child(ren).

School Uniforms

This is just a reminder that Tuesday, October 31st was the last day students could wear shorts or capris. Please remember that cargo pants for boys and decorative pants for girls are not our school uniform. Students will again be able to wear shorts on April 1st.

As the weather is changing, please make sure your child(ren) are dressed for the weather. The mornings are cool, but it warms up by the afternoon. As your child(ren) are dressing, please make sure they are wearing the appropriate

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school uniform. An example is wearing a St. Joseph sweatshirt vs. a non-school related sweatshirt or coat during the school day. Also, keep in mind that the boys' pants cannot be cargo pants for the school uniform. Lastly, this is a reminder that young ladies are to be wearing plaid skirts and jumpers only, and solid color pants. If you are unsure of our dress code, please refer to your parent handbook. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mark Your Calendar

Bull's Night and 8th grade recognition for 8th girls' basketball has been scheduled. Bull's night and 8th grade recognition will be November 9th against Visitation beginning at 6:00pm. Please come join us in honoring our 8th grade girls' basketball players.

Our annual school Christmas program will be on Monday, December 18th beginning at 6:00pm. Please mark your calendars so you won't miss this delightful program!

Lunch Time Visits

You are welcome to join us for lunch any time, but please call the office by 9:30am to let us know you will be coming. We make only enough lunch for those who have ordered that morning, and we don't have extras on hand for visitors. You are more than welcome to come have lunch with your child; we just want to make sure we have your lunch ordered as well!

Extra-Curricular News

End to a Wonderful Cross Country Season!

Congratulations to all those students who participated in Cross Country and special congratulations to Mason Nauman for qualify for State. Everyone had a wonderful season! The staff is all very proud of you!

Practice Reminders...

This is just a friendly reminder to all families; the only people who should be attending extra-curricular practices are those players who are listed on the roster and their coaches/teachers. Any other student from St Joseph School and/or another school should not be at any practices. The practice times are designated to those individuals to grow and participate within their activity.

Eligibility...

As our extra-curricular activities begin and eligibility is being looked at, a few items need to be clarified. Eligibility is pulled every Monday morning. The report looks at the student's grades from the previous week's work. The eligibility runs for one week beginning on that Monday through Sunday. Every Monday, eligibility is reevaluated and the principal notifies students if they have a warning or are ineligible. A letter is emailed home to the child's parents to be signed. If a child has a "D" in a class, they are on warning, which means they may play and practice for that week, but need to seek help from their teacher within that subject area. If a child has an "F" in a class, they are ineligible to play or practice for the week and need to seek help from their teacher within that subject area. If you have any questions regarding eligibility, please contact your child's teacher.

Extra-Curricular Event Workers

Just a reminder to all those who are scheduled to work an extra-curricular event. If you are unable to make your shift, it is your responsibility to cover yourself. Please take a look at the schedule and call another family with whom you may trade.

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SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, JAN.27th!

St. Joseph School Alumni Basketball Event

- Men or women high school or older who attended St. Joseph School in Pekin, IL!
- Quarters will feature different age groups!
- Women's game will be followed by a men's game!
- Also includes an optional free-throw contest for those who can't play during the game!
- Afterwards we will have Mass honoring our Annual of the Year along with Taste of Pekin!
- St. Joseph School Gym, 300 S. 6th St., Pekin, IL

Proceeds go to St. Joseph School Scholarship Fund and Extracurricular Fund

Volunteer Requirements

The Diocese of Peoria has many policies in place in order to provide safety for all the children in our care. If you want to volunteer or help out in the school setting, even just one time, you must complete the four components listed below:

- 1) Attend a "Safe Environment" workshop held with the St. Joseph Community.
(“Safe Environment” used to be called “Protecting God’s Children”. If you participated in “Protecting God’s Children” you will not have to take “Safe Environment”)
- 2) Complete a form to have the Department of Children and Family Services do a background check. Just stop in the office and we will give you the form to complete and return to the office. The forms must be sent in from the office and returned to the office to be valid. There is no cost for this section.
- 3) Be fingerprinted by the Illinois State Police. Part of your registration fee pays for this process. You may schedule an appointment with the Tazewell County Police Station for any Thursday evening. Please make sure you take the form from the office to the appointment.
- 4) Complete the three driving courses on the Catholic Mutual website and turn in the certificates to the school office. There is no cost for this section.

Before you can volunteer or help in any capacity this school year, you must first have all components. We go through this whole process because the children are our most valuable assets in the school. Thank you for volunteering your time!

Pekin Public Library

All students living in or outside of Pekin have an opportunity to hold a Pekin Public Library card. In order for your child(ren) to obtain their card please click on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/a/pekinpubliclibrary.org/forms/d/1-YW1qHJgkkDfP01QXPj7wYvu-hHhfUhv6Ane-H3Oa08/edit?usp=sharing_eil&ts=596e3ad2 Please just follow the instructions on there, and the cards will be mailed to your home address. Also with this card you can access their online databases and Tutor.com (awesome for homework help!).

Thank you to Parents Club for sponsoring Trunk-or-Treating

A special thank you to our parents club for organizing our annual SJS Trunk-or-Treating evening. We had lots of creatively decorated trunks for the families to enjoy. A special congrats to John and Jill Martin for winning first place, \$50 gift card, with a Disney theme, Jeff and Lisa Stolz receiving second place, \$25.00 gift card, with Dancing with Stars, and Tiffany Baughman and Cora Smith for receiving third place, \$20.00 gift card, with the Mad Scientist.

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Krispy Kreme Doughnuts

Thank you everyone who supported the Parents Club Krispy Kreme Doughnut. Please remember if your family sold two boxes of Krispy Kreme doughnuts your family earned a free dress on Monday, November 6th.

Congratulations to the following families for selling the most Krispy Kreme doughnuts!

1st Place: Grace Smith (14 dozen) \$50 gift card to Chili's

2nd Place: Ryan and Tyler Miller (8 dozen) \$25 gift card to Buffalo Wild Wings

3rd Place: Brenner Abts (7 dozen) \$20 gift card to Subway

Thank you on behalf of the SJS Parents Club!

1st Friday Collection and Sponsorship Update

Each 1st Friday of the month we will collect money for our sponsored friends around the world to help with their care and support. We have promised to raise \$33.00 each for our two sponsored friends for a total of \$66.00 per month. Through your generosity and Christian caring, we have always been able to meet our goal each month. We would like to introduce you to our sponsor friends for the 2017-2018 school year: Elmer Erasmo Rivera is 21 years old and lives with his mother, three brothers and one sister in a one-bedroom home in Managua, Nicaragua. His father works as a farmer in another country and sends money back to the family. They have no electricity, an outdoor pump and an outhouse on their small property where they grow beans and corn to eat. His favorite subject is Spanish. He is a good student who enjoys singing and dancing. He loves to play soccer and baseball. He wants to go to school to be an agricultural engineer and help his family with expenses.

Benefits Elmer will now receive from our sponsorship:

- ~ Medical attention (medical, dental, optical)
- ~ Hospitalization & medicine, when needed
- ~ Prayers, friendships and visits from C.F.C.A.
- ~ Food & clothing
- ~ Christian formation: moral formation
- ~ Education: schooling, supplies, housing
- ~ Birthday and Christmas celebrations
- ~ Sports festivals with soccer and baseball

Placida Benedicto is 74 years old and lives with her husband and many relatives in Antipolo, Philippines. She is supported by her relatives and husband whose income is generated making various clothing products to sell at local markets. Her home land has been hit by typhoons several times and they are working on rebuilding their homes and replanting seeds for food. This seems to be an ongoing experience for them every few years.

Benefits Placida receives from our sponsorship:

- ~ Medical attention (medical, dental, optical)
- ~ Hospitalization & medicine, when needed
- ~ Prayers, friendships and visits from C.F.C.A.
- ~ Food & clothing
- ~ Recreational activities
- ~ Help with selling items made at local shops
- ~ Family services for positive personal growth
- ~ Materials for housing and home repairs

We really can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters when we all work together.

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Box of Joy!

We would like to introduce to our St Joseph School Community our international service project, "Box of Joy". This program is sponsored by Cross Catholic Outreach. It is the Catholic version of Operation Christmas Child.

Every year, thousands of poor children experience a Christmas without hope. Burdened by poverty, their parents are simply too poor to provide anything but the most basic necessities. For more information, you can go to: BoxOfJoy.org.

Miss Joan Moore is once again the Project Leader, and can provide you with a gift box to use, or you can use any standard shoebox or plastic box (12"x5"). Many times the plastic box is used by children to keep personal items safe or to haul water back to their home. You can choose the gender and age range (2-4, 5-9, or 10-14) that you would like to help, then go shopping and personally select gifts to bring joy to a child.

For each Box of Joy, let us know what age group and gender the box is for and include a \$9.00 check in an envelope made out to Cross Catholic Outreach or you can conveniently pay online. The donation covers \$7 for S&H to the destination country and \$2 to support the life-saving ministries of priests, nuns, and lay-missionaries working with the children.

Imagine the scene as a little boy or girl gleefully opens your Box of Joy! The packing of your box does more than meet a child's practical needs; this gift helps to magnify our Lord's compassion for the poor. For those fighting poverty "in the trenches" this box is a Godsend! Boxes are due Wednesday, November 8th.

<u>Toys</u>	<u>School Supplies</u>	<u>Accessories</u>	<u>Hygiene/Home</u>
Handheld toys	Pencils, colored	Watch	Comb/brush
Small plush animals	pencils	Purse/wallet	Forks & Spoons
Small balls (tennis, etc)	Solar calculator	Sunglasses	Cup/Bottle with Lid
Ball (deflated) with pump	Sharpener	Necklace	Bar soap
Cars/Trucks	Small board	Hair ribbons	Toothpaste (in the box)
Doll	books	Hair ties	Toothbrush & floss
Mini Puzzles	Erasers	Head bands	Bandages
Finger puppets	Pencil case	Barrettes	Hand Wipes (no gels)
Silly putty	Crayons	Brace lets	Tissues
Bean bag/Hacky sack	Pens, markers	Earrings	Lip balm
Unopened fast food toys	Ruler	Scarf	Manicure kit
Binoculars	Glue stick	Cross or rosary	Nail Clippers
Legos	Safety scissors		Emery Board
Harmonica, kazoo	Coloring Book	Apparel	
Small Instruments	Notepads	Socks	Useful Items
Jump rope	Stickers	Shorts	Sewing kit
Paddle Ball	Self-inking stamp	Underwear	Utensils
Yo-yo	Flash Cards	T-shirts	Compass
Slinky	Dry Paints (no liquid paints)	Flip Flops	LED keychain
Mini Board		Bandanas	Duct Tape
Games	Hard Candy & Gum	Hats	No-battery Flashlight
Balloons		Shoelaces	Flashlight
Craft Kit	Please seal in a Ziploc-style bag (no chocolate)	Plastic Poncho	Drawstring Bag
Pom-poms			

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Parent's Corner Conversations About School

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help – but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are four conversations that will help you stay involved!

"Let's see what you brought home."

Look at completed work to find out what your child is learning and how well they are doing. You could comment on their social studies report or pottery project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from your child's teacher, and sign their weekly folder or daily planner if required.

"Show me what you have for homework."

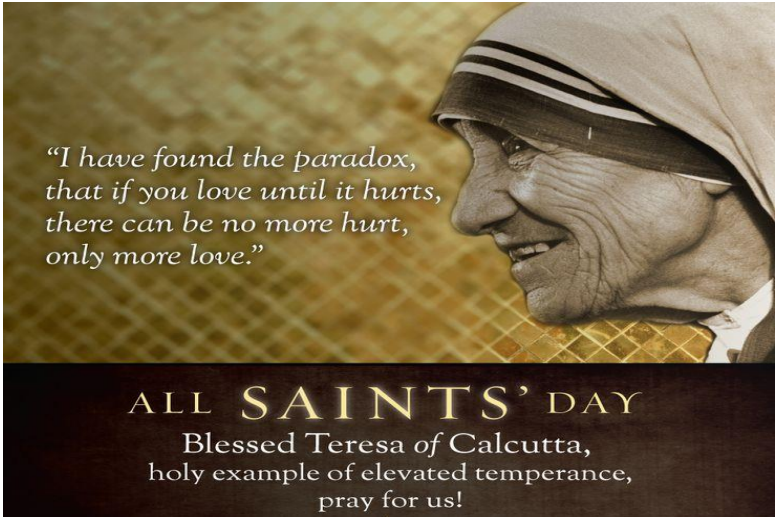
It's your child's job to do their homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure your child knows what they are supposed to do by having them explain the assignments to you. After they finish their work, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

"Describe a book you enjoyed today."

This gives you an idea of what your child prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what they would like to read tonight. Encourage your child's reading and listening skills by reading aloud to them and letting your child read to you.

"Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."

Use your child's interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If they like geometry, you might do tangrams together. If your child is fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take them to the library to research the subject or to the zoo to see live animals.



*"I have found the paradox,
that if you love until it hurts,
there can be no more hurt,
only more love."*

ALL SAINTS' DAY
Blessed Teresa of Calcutta,
holy example of elevated temperance,
pray for us!

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November Calendar of Important Dates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Mass – 7 th grade	BBB @ BJHS Parents Club meeting 6:00pm	Adoration 2:00pm BBB @ St. Mary B/N 7 th GBB Tournament @ St. Phil	8 th PND Testing 7 th GBB Tournament @ St. Phil
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Krispy Kreme Doughnut Pickup	BBB @ Home against Hartsburg- Emden Extra- Curricular Meeting	BBB @ Christian Life Academy GBB @ Home against Bethel Lutheran Preschool Christmas Shoe Boxes Due 7th Grade PND Field Trip	GBB @ Rankin	GBB @ Home against Visitation 8th grade Recognition @ 6:00pm Picture Retake Day BBB @ Robein	6th grade tournament @ St. Jude GBB @ St Thomas 8th Grade Tourney Mass- 3rd Grade 7th Grade Sophia's Kitchen	6th grade tournament @ St. Jude GBB @ St Thomas 8th Grade Tourney 8th Grade Placement Exam - Make- up Date
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Youth Group Open Gym	BBB @ St. Vincent de Paul	BBB @ Home against St. Philomena Parent Ambassador Meeting	BBB @ Good Shepherd Lutheran	BBB @ Bethel Lutheran 6th Grade Tourney GBB @ Bethel Lutheran 6th Grade Tourney	BBB @ Bethel Lutheran 6th Grade Tourney GBB @ Bethel Lutheran 6th Grade Tourney Mass- Kindergarten	BBB @ Bethel Lutheran 6th Grade Tourney GBB @ Bethel Lutheran 6th Grade Tourney
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
BBB @ Bethel Lutheran 6th Grade Tourney GBB @ Bethel Lutheran 6th	Preschool Thanksgiving Feast Regular School Day w/Parent Conferences	No School- Parent- Teacher Conferences 1 2PM-3:30PM; 5-8PM Preschool Thanksgiving	No School	Thanksgiving Day-No School	No School	

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Grade Tourney	5-8PM	Feast & Dismissal 11AM				
		BBB @ Home against St. Edward/St. Jude				
26	27	28	29	30		
	GBB 8th Grade Regionals BBB @ Oak Grove West	BBB @ Home against Blessed Sacrament				

