



SAINT JOHN  
SCHOOL

# Parent Newsletter

## December 2024



### MISSION STATEMENT

*As Heralds of the Gospel, Saint John School seeks to bring light and truth to PK-12 students in Ashtabula County and beyond through its commitment to educating the whole person by developing scholarship, deepening faith and inspiring leadership in the Catholic tradition.*

## A Note from the President

The time before Christmas can be stressful. There is so much “to do”. Elsewhere in the newsletter, you will see that our focus as a school is to take time to pray during Advent. But, as much as we might want to take time to pause, and BE during Advent, we can get lost along the way.

One of my frustration “triggers” is getting lost on the road. Even with voice assist of GPS, at times we can get stuck. Perhaps it is an accident that closes the exit we are meant to take. Or perhaps we entered the street as East 9<sup>th</sup> and it was meant to be West 9<sup>th</sup>. Or we come up on a detour and it’s not clear how we should keep going.

Detours are a part of life. Author Regina Brett has just written a book about life’s detours. I haven’t read it yet, but I am sure it offers insights on how to deal with the unexpected interruptions in our life plans. I think Christmas preparation is full of these types of interruptions. We have our calendar clearly planned out. We are wrapping presents on the 10<sup>th</sup>; making cookies on the 12<sup>th</sup>; mailing our cards on the 13<sup>th</sup>, visiting Aunt Susie on December 19<sup>th</sup> etc. Then in the middle things happen. The only present Johnny wants won’t get here until December 30<sup>th</sup>. Your mother-in-law broke her hip and now you are hosting Christmas Eve. It doesn’t matter whether the detour is big or small, it changes our plans. We had everything arranged perfectly, but now the paper has a new design. Often, we can deal with the big detours, it’s the last little change that can send us over the edge.

If this is true for us as adults, it is just as true for our students. Christmas for the littlest Heralds is a time of expectation and excitement. For the more “senior” Heralds, it holds a different type of engagement, from exams to picking out an ugly Christmas sweater. I think one of the lessons we can learn together is that sometimes the best part of a trip are the detours we take. Perhaps our Christmas traditions this year might be different this year due to circumstances beyond our control. Can we make new traditions that bring a different type of holiday joy? Are we able to recognize that others in our circle of family and friends may have lost their way and are facing more than a slight detour? Are we able to help them find a new road for the journey?

As we pray our way through Advent, let us take time to BE and not just DO. All of us at Saint John pray that we can BE people of HOPE; we pray that we can BE people who ACT; we pray that we can BE people who allow Christ to come into our lives, the lives of our family and into the lives of strangers who come into our midst. If we focus on who we are and not what we do, we will celebrate the same way Jesus did on the road to Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Saint John School.





## **Praying our Advent Journey**

Advent is a time of prayer and reflection. It invites us to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas. This year, Pope Francis has called for a jubilee year inviting us to Embrace the Gift of Hope.

Praying during Advent can deepen our faith and cultivate our sense of being a member of a faith-filled community.

As we celebrate Advent through Prayer, we remember that prayer is a time for ACTS.

We act by uplifting our hearts in **Adoration**. We recognize that we prepare for the birth of our Saviour, who shepherds and kings knelt before in the humble stable where Jesus was born.

We act by being **Contrite**. We are sorry for the times we have closed our hearts to Jesus by not recognizing Him in those around us.

We act by giving **Thanks**. We are thankful for God sending his only Son to be one with us.

We act by sending up prayers of **Supplication**. We ask God to bless our families, to bless those less fortunate and to bless our world.

As a school, we will pray in Adoration each week with our Advent Prayer services and at the celebration of Mass on December 9th. This Mass will be at 9:45 and all are welcome to join us.

As a school, we will have the opportunity to express contrition through the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 4 for students in grades 7-12 and on December 11 for students in grades 3-6. Before the celebration of the sacrament, all of us will have the opportunity to examine how we can be more attentive to Christ in our lives.

As a school, we will have the opportunity to express our gratitude in prayer by special prayers in class and at the beginning of the day.

As a school, we will pray for God to bless those less fortunate. Our prayer will be shown in our actions by participating in the Catholic Charities HALO project. More details on this will be in the e-newsletter.

## **With Gratitude**

The Twelve Days of Christmas and the 31st Annual Festival of Trees was not only a successful fundraiser for our school, but a shining example of the Saint John family. From donations of cookies, auction items, sponsorships, Dress Down Days and many hours of dedicated volunteer work, both the online and in-person offerings charmed our guests and filled them (and us!) with true holiday spirit. THANK YOU for supporting this event in every way – we appreciate and value our Saint John students, families and community. Happy Holidays!

## **SGO Informational Meeting**

Learn more about the Saint John Scholarship Granting Organization on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria. Live stream available at [www.sjheralds.org/student-experience/sjsbroadcast](http://www.sjheralds.org/student-experience/sjsbroadcast). Please see the enclosed insert for more information.

## **Santa Shop**

PTO is once again sponsoring a Santa Shop the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>. Children will have the opportunity to purchase simple gifts for members of their families. Volunteer sign-up to help is in the weekly enews.

## **Breakfast with Santa**

Saturday, December 14, 10:00-12:00 in the Saint John School gymnasium and cafeteria. This event has always been sold out and due to our increased enrollment and space limitations, it will be reserved for Saint John School students in grades PK-Grade 3, please. Online registration and payment are required to reserve your spot. The sign up form can be found on Saint John website under Student Experience. Direct any questions or offers to volunteer to Mr. Corlew at 440.997.5531 X 226 or [kciorlew@sjheralds.org](mailto:kciorlew@sjheralds.org).

## **Ugly Sweater Day**

The Philanthropy Club will be sponsoring an Ugly Christmas Sweater Day on Monday, December 16th. We are requesting a \$3 donation that will benefit charities in the area. Students who pay \$3 may dress down with an Ugly Christmas Sweater.

## **Christmas Concerts**

Our annual Christmas concerts will take place on December 19. Students in grades PK-2 will perform at 10:30 am and students in grades 3-6 will perform at 1:00 pm. If families are attending the concert, they may bring students home with them after the performance. There will be a form in the enews to let us know if students in PK-2 will be leaving after their performance so we can arrange for supervision for those who will remain at school.

## **Christmas Parties**

Christmas parties for students in grades PK-6 will take place on Friday, December 20 at 1:30 pm. Grade level homeroom parents will be in touch to seek assistance for each grade level. If you will be coming to assist in the classroom, you will need to have a visitor badge. Similar to Halloween, we will ask you to pre-register, so that badges are ready when you arrive.

## **Extended Care – After School Care**

There is no extended care (after school care) on December 19 and 20. Please plan for students to be picked up at 2:20 pm on these days. Aftercare will resume when classes resume in January.

## **Christmas Vacation Office Hours**

The office will be closed the week of December 23, We will be open on December 30 and January 3. If there is an emergency, please contact us via email or leave a message on 440-997-5531 x 228.

## **Parent Ambassadors Meeting**

Tuesday, December 3, 8:00-9:00 am and 2:45-3:45 pm in the cafeteria.

## **Shadowing**

Shadowing is available for grades 5-12 on Tuesday, December 10 for students considering enrollment at Saint John for 2025-2026. Contact Mr. Corlew to schedule.

## **PTO Meeting**

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria.





## New ACT Dates...

| <u>Test Date</u>   | <u>Regular Registration Deadline</u> | <u>Late Registration Deadline</u><br>(Late Registration Fee Required) | <u>Standby Deadline</u><br>(Photo Upload Deadline) |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>February 8, 2025</b>  | <b>January 3, 2025</b>               | <b>January 20, 2025</b>   |  |
| <b>FEES</b>  |                                      |   |  |
| ACT (No Writing)   | \$69.00                              | Standby Testing   | ADD \$69.00  |
| ACT Plus Writing   | \$94.00                              | Test Option Change  | ADD \$25.00  |
| Late Registration  | ADD \$38.00                          | Change Fee  | ADD \$44.00  |
| Additional Score Reports ADD \$19.00   |                                      |   |  |
| Visit <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a> for online registration and practice resources. |                                      |   |  |
| Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.   |                                      |   |  |

## SAT TESTING DATES

| <u>Test Date</u>   | <u>Regular Registration Deadline</u> | <u>Late Registration Deadline</u><br>(Late Registration Fee Required) |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>March 8, 2025</b>   | <b>February 21, 2025</b>             | <b>February 25, 2025</b>  |
| <b>FEES</b>  |                                      |   |
| SAT Test   | \$68.00                              | Cancel Registration   |
| Late Registration  | ADD \$34.00                          | Late Cancel Registration  |
| Change Registration  | ADD \$30.00                          |   |
| Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.   |                                      |   |
| Visit <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a> for online registration and practice resources. |                                      |   |

**For all ACT & SAT dates, please check the school website.**

\* **ATECH Career Night** will be held the evening of December 5th for students and parents wishing to visit any of their programs. Individuals will be in the Resource Room (Library) helping students/parents submit applications and answer questions as well.

For more information on upcoming events and opportunities, see their website for more information: <https://www.atech.edu/>.

## Semester Exams

For students in grades 7-12, semester exams take place on December 17, 18 and 19. The schedule for exams will be listed in the e-newsletter. Students who are sick on an exam day must make up the exams after school on January 6th and 7th. Students are dismissed daily at 11:55 am OR earlier depending on students exams. Please arrange early transportation for your child on these days.

### Looking Ahead:

Midterms - Midterms will be given to students in grades 7-12 on December 17, 2024, December 18, 2024 and December 19, 2024. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

NWEA MAPs will be given in January for all students. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

### FAFSA For Any Senior Going To College or Postsecondary Education (Tech School)

The official launch date of the new year FAFSA is December 1st. **Financial Aid Night** For Saint John is **Wednesday, December 4th at 6pm**. The sooner your FAFSA is filed the more potential Financial Aid and or Scholarships you or your student may receive. Please contact your College/ Postsecondary Education of choice or the Guidance Department for Questions.

Saint John School  
7911 Depot Road  
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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**On Instagram**  
[@stjohnheralds](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnheralds)  
**Join our LinkedIn:**  
Ashtabula/St.John/Sts.John & Paul High School  
**And keep up to date by visiting our website:**  
[www.sjheralds.org](http://www.sjheralds.org)  
Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



### CAMPUS MINISTRY CORNER

Advent Prayer Services will be held at 8:35 am on December 3rd and 16th.

High School Reconciliation will be available on December 4th.

Mass for the Immaculate Conception will be held at 9:45 am on December 9th.  
All are welcome to attend.

Elementary Reconciliation will be available on December 11th.

Our Christmas Charity Drive will support the HALO Project by Catholic Charities.

Saint Nicholas will be visiting PK-6 on his feast day, Friday, December 6th.

Our Lady of Peace Parish is seeking all students who wish to participate in the Christmas Eve Mass Choir (4:00 pm Mass 12/24). Practices are after the 10:00 am Mass on December 8, 15 and 22.  
Please contact Deacon Seagraves at [tseagraves@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:tseagraves@youngstowndiocese.org) if interested.

Service Hours: A reminder that each student must complete 50% of their required service hours by December 31st. The categories of Church, School, and Community are not considered for these hours. Please direct any questions to Dr. Wilson at [awilson@sjheralds.org](mailto:awilson@sjheralds.org).



JOURNEY  
OF  
Faith



# SAINTJOHN

SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION

**IT'S LIKE A BOOMERANG...  
WHAT YOU GIVE COMES BACK TO YOU!**

- **Receive** a 2024 Ohio income tax credit when making a contribution to the Saint John SGO.
- **If you owe income tax**, your contribution to the Saint John SGO satisfies your payment to the state and keeps your tax dollars local.
- **If you are receiving a refund**, your refund will increase by the amount you contribute. In other words, you “get your money back,” **AND** assist Saint John students!
- It is not too good to be true! Speak to your tax preparer today.

## **“What to Know About SGO”**

**January 15, 2025  
6:00pm**

Saint John School  
7911 Depot Road  
Ashtabula, OH 44004  
440-997-5531 x236

Livestream available at  
[www.sjheralds.org/student-experience/sjsbroadcast](http://www.sjheralds.org/student-experience/sjsbroadcast)

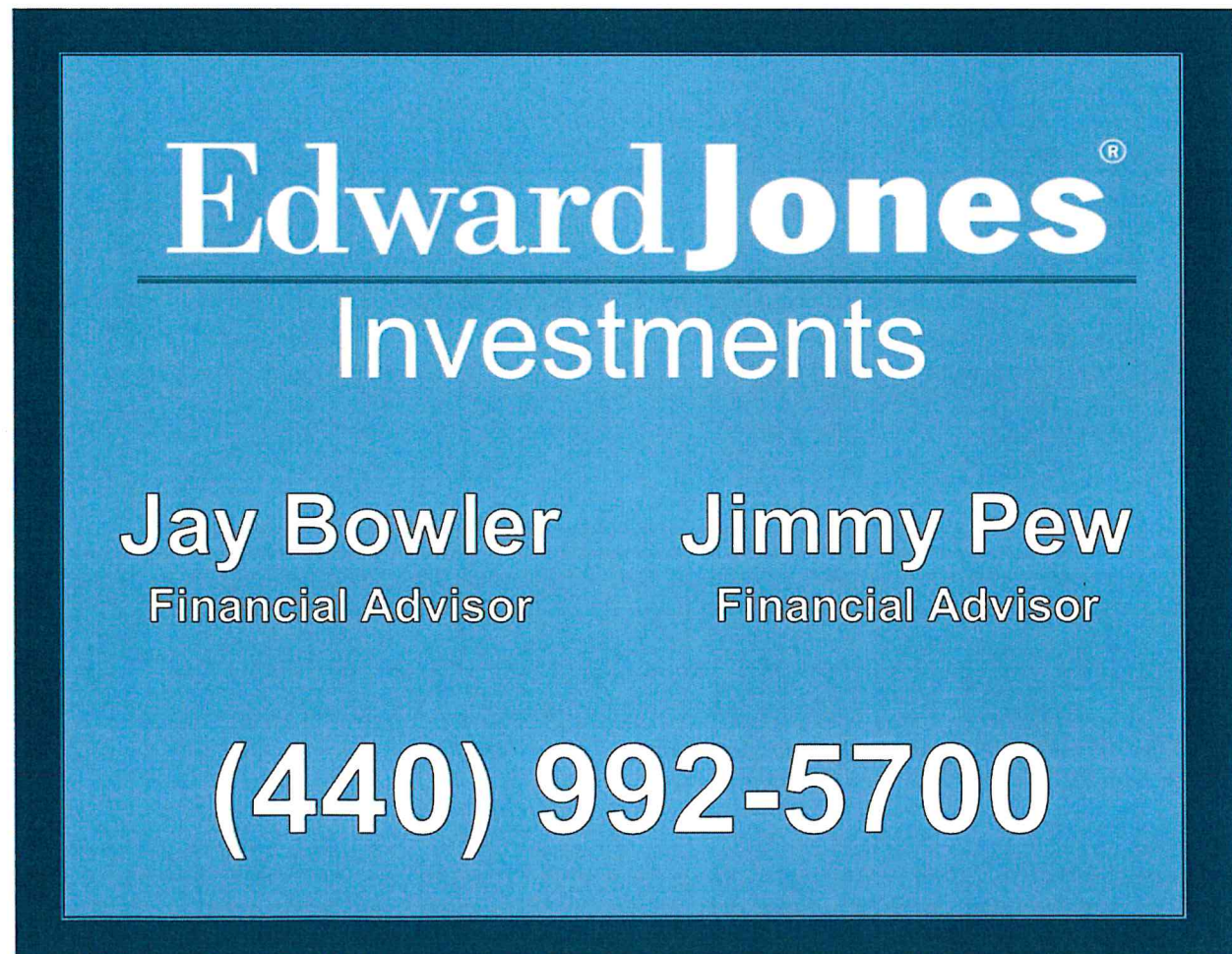




## Athletic News

The Basketball season will open on December 2 with a Varsity Girls Basketball Game at home. During the season we need many volunteers to assist with the Concession Stand and Ticket Booth. If you are willing to help contact Athletic Director, Nick Iarocci at [niarocci@jheralds.org](mailto:niarocci@jheralds.org).

Thank you to our Platinum Student Activities Sponsors: Arthur Louis Steel, VFW Post 943, American Legion Post 103, Edward Jones and Cragon Automotive: This month we give a shout out to:

A blue rectangular advertisement with a dark blue border. The text is white. At the top, "Edward Jones" is in a large serif font with a registered trademark symbol, followed by "Investments" in a smaller serif font. Below this, two names are listed side-by-side: "Jay Bowler" and "Jimmy Pew", each followed by "Financial Advisor" in a smaller font. At the bottom, the phone number "(440) 992-5700" is displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

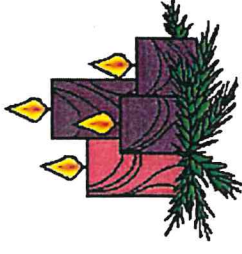
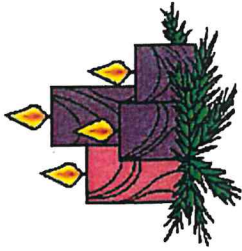
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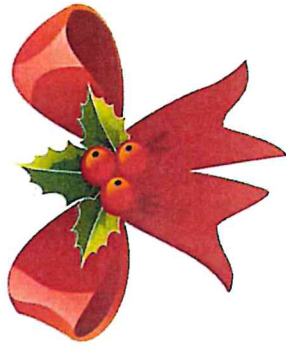
# Activity Calendar December 2024



| Sun | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat                                |
|-----|--|--|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 1   | 2<br>NO SCHOOL   | 3 Advent Prayer Service 8:35 am<br>PTO Meeting 6:00 pm<br>Parent Ambassador Meeting 8 am or 2:45 | 4 High School Reconciliation                       | 5   | 6 Winter Sports Rally 1:30 pm<br>Grades 6-12<br>St. Nicholas Visit PK-6 | 7<br>Breakfast with Santa 10:00 am |
| 8   | 9 All School Liturgy 9:45 am<br>Dress Uniform Day<br>Santa Shop                | 10 Shadow Day<br>Grades 5-12   | 11 Elementary Reconciliation<br>Grade 2 Field Trip | 12  | 13  | 14                                 |
| 15  | 16 Advent Prayer Service 8:35 am<br>Ugly Christmas Sweater Day<br>\$3 donation | 17<br>Exams Grades 7-12<br>Early Dismissal for Grades 7-12                                       | 18   | 19 Christmas Concert PK-2 10:30 am<br>Grades 3-6—1:00 pm<br>No After School | 20 Christmas Parties—PK-6 1:30 pm<br>No After School                    | 21                                 |
| 22  | 23   | 24<br>Christmas Eve  | 25<br>Christmas Day                                | 26  | 27  | 28                                 |
| 29  | 30   | 31   | Christmas Break                                    |   |   |                                    |

Calendar Subject to Change





# Lunch Menu

## December 2024

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----|
| 1<br>Chef Salad                                | 2<br>NO SCHOOL   | 3 Taco Salad<br>Chips & Salsa<br>Corn<br>Fruit<br>Milk                           | 4 Rotini<br>Salad<br>Roll<br>Fruit<br>Milk         | 5 Teriyaki Chicken<br>Brown Rice<br>Broccoli<br>Mandarin Oranges<br>Cookie<br>Milk | 6 Pizza<br>Salad<br>Fruit<br>Cookie<br>Milk  | 7   |
| 8<br>Spinach/Romaine<br>w/cranberries<br>Salad | 9 Chicken Pattie Sand<br>Tator Tots<br>Celery & Carrots<br>Fruit<br>Milk | 10 Beef, Bean &<br>Cheese Burrito<br>Rice & Mini Tacos<br>Salad<br>Fruit<br>Milk | 11 Lasagna<br>Salad<br>Breadstick<br>Fruit<br>Milk | 12 Creamed Turkey<br>Over Biscuit<br>Mashed Potatoes<br>Corn<br>Fruit<br>Milk      | 13 Pizza<br>Salad<br>Fruit<br>Cookie<br>Milk | 14  |
| 15<br>NO SALADS                                | 16 Chili<br>Pepperoni Ball<br>Salad<br>Fruit<br>Milk                     | 17 Hot Dogs<br>French Fries<br>Green Beans<br>Fruit<br>Milk                      | 18 Penne Pasta<br>Salad<br>Roll<br>Fruit<br>Milk   | 19 Popcorn Chicken<br>Mac & Cheese<br>Carrots<br>Fruit<br>Milk                     | 20 Pizza<br>Salad<br>Fruit<br>Cookie<br>Milk | 21  |
| 22   | 23   | 24   | 25   | 26   | 27   | 28  |
| 29   | 30   | Merry Christmas  |  |  |  |     |