



SAIN^TJOHN
SCHOOL



Parent Newsletter

January/February 2026

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

Recently, Pope Leo, in response to a question, named his top four favorite movies. One of them was *Ordinary People*. (The other three were *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Sound of Music* and *A Beautiful Life*).

The movie *Ordinary people* is a family drama about grief, guilt, and healing after tragedy. The story centers on the **Jarrett family**, once an upper-middle-class suburban family that seemed perfect from the outside. Their world falls apart after two events: the death of the older son, Buck, in a boating accident and the surviving son, Conrad, attempting suicide due to overwhelming guilt and trauma.

The film reminds us that what is shown on the exterior (in the case of the Jarrett family economic stability, good housing, an intact family unit) is not always an accurate view of the struggles that are taking place within or behind closed doors. No matter how polished a family or an individual might appear no one is completely free of pain or struggle.

I think of this during the months of January and February. The glitz of the holidays. We are packing up the décor and trimmings. It's cold and snowy. The evenings are dark. Students are "over" the excitement of a new school year and May (even for the seniors) seems far away. So, how should we approach the ordinary time of life?

Build Tiny Rest Rituals. Ordinary life is often exhausting. We tend not to rest until we crash. So, perhaps take a short walk outside or a no phone policy at meals.

Remember what "Ordinary" really means. It doesn't mean "boring." In the church calendar, Ordinary Time is the Church's way of saying: *slow down, breathe, and live the Gospel in the everyday.*

Embrace the spirituality of the "in-between." Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter—those seasons feel special. Ordinary Time reminds us God is found in: routines, relationships, daily responsibilities, the quiet, unnoticed moments. Holiness is often hidden in laundry, lesson plans, hallway conversations, and Tuesday afternoons.

Embrace a spirituality of "Just enough" Letting go of perfectionism. We often believe we need to do something *perfectly* for it to count. "Just enough" says: You don't have to pray like a monk; You don't need to read a whole chapter—maybe a single verse; You don't need to solve everything today; Small steps still move you forward. In spirituality, "just enough" echoes biblical moments like: the widow's small offering, daily manna in the desert, the mustard seed or the "five loaves and two fish."

May the ordinary moments of January and February bring unexpected growth, a sense of personal accomplishment and help us become more authentic leaders.

JANUARY NEWS

Office Hours

The office will be closed on Thursday, January 1 and Friday, January 2.

Shadowing

Shadowing is available on Tuesday, January 6 for students considering enrolling in grades 5-12 at the second semester or for the 2026-2027 academic year. Call Mr. Corlew at 440.997.5531 X 226 to schedule your visit.

PTO Meeting

The next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13 at 8:00 am.

Lottery Dress Down Day

Dress down for lottery is Friday, January 16.

No School

There will be no school on Monday, January 19 due to the celebration of Martin Luther King Day.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will begin on Tuesday, January 20. Please check the weekly e-newsletter for more details.

Spelling Bee

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will have an opportunity to participate in the annual spelling bee on Wednesday, January 21 at 8:30 am.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is January 25 – January 31. We will celebrate Mass as a school community on Thursday, January 29 at 9:45 am. All are welcome to join us. Please check out the enews for more information regarding activities for the week. The activities are prepared by the Student Council and other student leaders. The funds for the activities are paid for through the Student Service Fee. If a family has not paid the student service fee or has not set up a payment plan, students will remain at school for an alternate activity.

All School Liturgy

We will be having an all school liturgy on Thursday, January 29 at 9:45 am to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

All are welcome to join us.

This is a dress uniform day.

Festival of Trees - Thank You!

Thank YOU for making both the Twelve Days of Christmas & 32nd Annual Festival of Trees a true success - not only as a fundraiser (raising over \$130,000), but also as an opportunity to connect with one another during the busy holiday season. This special event requires many hands (& hearts) to make it meaningful for guests and students alike - thank YOU for being an integral part of that experience. We are blessed by your generosity and volunteerism.

Winter Weather

Northeast Ohio produces a variety of weather conditions. During the winter months we have the “joy” of experiencing snow, slush, ice and freezing rain. The maintenance staff and our snow plow company do their best to keep entry ways, sidewalks and the parking area snow free. It is difficult to keep the parking areas “slip” free as snow melts and freezes very quickly at times. We encourage students to wear boots that will give them better traction. If you are coming to a school function, please be careful leaving and returning to your car.

What to Know about SGO!

Do you pay Ohio income tax? If so, you can receive a **TAX CREDIT** by making a contribution to the **Saint John Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO)** before you file your 2025 taxes.

- It is just like a boomerang – what you give to the Saint John SGO comes back to you!
- If you are receiving a refund, your existing refund will increase by the amount you contribute (max \$750) to the Saint John SGO. In other words, you “get your money back!”
- If you owe income tax, make a contribution (max \$750) to the Saint John SGO to satisfy your payment to the state & keep your tax dollars local.

For more information, please contact your tax preparer, visit www.sjheralds.org, or call Kristen Kitchen at 440-997-5531 x236. There is also an informational session scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:00pm in the Kanicki Cafe.

Guidance News

NWEA Testing – Week of January 12

NWEA testing for students in grades K–11 will begin the week of January 12. Please note that since Seniors are not involved in NWEA testing, they will not need to report to school until 9:20 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14. Thank you for your cooperation as we administer this important assessment.

Senior College Visit Day – Monday, January 12

On Monday, January 12, our Seniors will participate in a College Visit Day. As a result, school will not be in session for students in Grade 12 that day. Additionally, due to NWEA testing, Seniors who are not involved in NWEA testing will not need to report to school until 9:20 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14.

Career Day

The Guidance Department will be hosting a Career Day for students in grades 9-12 on Wednesday, January 28.

Makeup Day for a Snow Day would be Feb. 4, 2026.

Students will follow a schedule based on career interests and availability of speakers. If you are interested in participating as a guest speaker please contact the Guidance Department

(abrace@sjheralds.org or nsteele@sjheralds.org)

ATECH Career Night January 29th from 5-7 p.m.

Ninth grade students are welcome and encouraged to attend in order to learn about the CTE program with their parents. Sophomores you can bring your parents and revisit programs you saw during your sophomore showcase or visit new ones. You will be able to tour campus, meet instructors and learn about industry credentials. For more information or to apply online for the 26-27 school year visit website: <https://www.atech.edu/>

Contact Amanda.Schumann@atech.edu or 440-576-6015 Ext. 1115 for more information.

FEBRUARY NEWS

No School

There is no school on February 13 and February 16. On February 13, staff will be involved in a diocesan wide professional development day and February 16 is President's Day.

PTO Meeting

The PTO will meet Tuesday, February 10 at 8:00 am.

Ash Wednesday/All School Liturgy

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday with a Mass on Wednesday, February 18 at 9:45 am. All are welcome to join us.

This is a dress uniform day.

Coffee Talk

On Thursday, February 19, we will host a coffee talk for parents of families in grades 7-12. We will discuss vaping policies, use of social media and Artificial Intelligence, as well as other topics pertinent to parent concerns. The coffee talk begins at 8:00 am and will last for approximately an hour.

Lottery Dress Down

Dress down for lottery is Friday, February 20.

Father Daughter Dance

This year's father daughter dance will be held on Saturday, February 7 from 5:00 -7:00 pm for all PK-6th grade daughters and their special person. A flyer will be sent home with your child to RSVP. Please rsvp online by February 2.

Classroom Valentine's Day Parties

This year, St. Valentine's Day will be celebrated on Thursday, February 12. Students in grades PK-6 may dress down in red or pink colors. Homeroom parents will be in touch with parents to plan the details for Grades PK-6 parties. Students in grades 7-12 may dress down in red or pink attire for a donation of \$2.00.

Malley's Candy Sale

We will again offer families the opportunity to purchase Candy from Malley's for Easter. The orders will be taken from February 2-20. More details will be in the enews at the end of January.

Ed Choice & Jon Peterson State Scholarships

The opportunity to re-apply or apply for a state of Ohio scholarship opens on February 1st. Applications will be mailed home. We encourage families to send in your applications and a **current full page utility bill**. Please fill out your forms as soon as possible. Applications and renewals can take time to be approved sometimes for no apparent reasons. Our staff is more than happy to assist, but we need families to start the application process.

This is not a time to procrastinate!

**Focused Minds;
Lead with Purpose**

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences for students in grades PK-12 for second semester will take place virtually and in person on Thursday, February 5 from 2:45-7:45 pm and on February 7 virtually for students in PK-6. The purpose of parent conferences is for teachers to share academic progress and growth based on classroom observations, testing data, assessments, portfolios, assignments and for teachers to learn from parents about students' strengths, needs, behaviors and learning styles. Conferences are brief, but if an extended conference is needed, that can be arranged. Sign up information will be in the weekly e-news toward the end of January.

There will be NO SCHOOL for grades PK-6 on Friday, February 6.

Guidance News

****ACT Testing for Juniors** will be given on February 24, 2026. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

****Pre-ACT Testing for Sophomores** will be given on February 24, 2026. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

IOWA Test of Basic Skills - All 9th Graders, 10th graders who have not completed all sections of the IOWAs, and Juniors who have not completed the IOWAS will be taking the IOWA Test of Basic Skills on February 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, this test is a graduation requirement for Saint John School students. To graduate, students must pass all sections of the test. Makeups for the IOWA Test of Basic Skills will be arranged with the Guidance Department after school.

Saint Patrick's Day Shenanigans

The lucky little leprechauns at Saint John School have some **BIG** fun planned for Saint Patrick's Day. **Save the date for online shenanigans with Seven Lucky Nights** (March 6-14, 2026) **AND** in person on **Saturday, March 14, 2026**. We are asking parents to once again contribute to gift baskets for both the online and in person events. Please send in gift cards or items for a gift basket to **Teri Biggins**.

More details to follow in the weekly enews.



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And keep up to date by visiting our website:
www.sjheralds.org
Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



Athletic News

Intramural Basketball

Skills Camp Dates:

Saturdays, December 20th, 2025 & January 10th, 2026

(K-3) 9:00am-10:00am **(4-6)** 10:00am-11:00am

(Please check in when you arrive at the skills camp, we will be collecting shirt sizes for t-shirts and reversible game jerseys.)

Game Dates: Sundays, January 18th, 25th, February 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd.

We are looking for people to help run the concession stand for Intramurals and for junior high games. If you would be interested please contact Nick Iarocci. (niarocci@sjheralds.org)

We're excited to share that Saint John School will now be offering live streaming for select athletic events through Hudl Fan. This will allow families and friends to watch games live when they are unable to attend in person. Instructions are provided below. Thank you for your continued support of Saint John Athletics! For directions on how to livestream the games click here [Hudl](#)

You can also access the information and the link on the school webpage:

<https://www.sjheralds.org/athletics-clubs/>

Thank you to our Platinum Student Activities Sponsors: Arthur Louis Steel, VFW Post 943, Montrose Auto Group, Edward Jones and Sons of Italy. This month we give a shout out to:

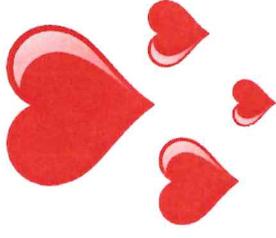
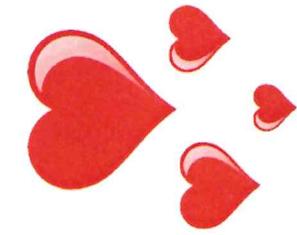
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Activity Calendar January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 School Resumes	6 Shadow Day	7	8 1 NO SCHOOL 	9 Festival of Trees Dress Down Day	10
11	12 Senior College Visit Day	13 PTO Meeting 8:00 am SGO Informational Meeting—6:00 pm	14	15	16 Lottery Dress Down	17
NWEA Testing						
18	19 MLK Day NO SCHOOL	20 Book Fair	21 Middle School Spelling Bee -8:30 am	22	23	24
25 Catholic Schools Week Begins	26 Elementary Flying Pancakes	27 Grades 9-12 Sky Zone	28 Grades 9-12 Career Day Grade 6-8 Sky Zone	29 All School Liturgy 9:45 am Elementary Talent Show—12:30 pm	30 Early Dismissal For Grades 9-12 11:30 am	31

Activity Calendar February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 State of Ohio Scholarships open	2 Malley's Candy Sale Begins	3	4	5 Parent/Teacher Conferences Gr. PK-12 2:45—7:45 pm	6 St. Patrick's Day Dress Down Day Parent/Teacher Conferences PK-6 NO SCHOOL for PK-6	7 Cinderella Father/Daughter Dance—5:00 pm 
8	9	10 PTO Meeting 8:00 am	11 Shadow Day	12 PK-6 Valentines Parties 1:30 pm	13 NO SCHOOL	14 
15	16 NO SCHOOL 	17	18 Ash Wednesday All School Liturgy 9:45 am	19 Grade 7 Service Day Coffee Talk— 8:00 am Grades 7-12 Blood Drive-1:00pm	20 Grade 7 Retreat Day Lottery Dress Down Malley's Candy Sale Ends	21
22	23	24 ACT/PSAT Testing	25	26	27	28

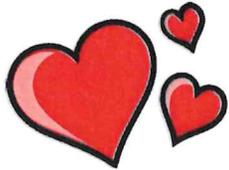


Lunch Menu January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3
4 Chef Salad	5 Pizzaburgers Salad Carrots Pears Milk	6 Taco Salad Quesadilla Corn Oranges Milk	7 Rotini Roll Salad Fruit Cocktail Milk	8 Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Pineapple Milk	9 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	10
11 Chicken BLT Salad	12 Chili Pepperoni Ball Salad Peaches Milk	13 Hot Dogs Potato Wedges Green Beans Applesauce Milk	14 Shells Breadstick Salad Banana Milk	15 Hamburgers Tator Tots Corn Pears Milk	16 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	17
18 Taco Salad	19 NO SCHOOL	20 Turkey Sandwich OR PB&J French Fries Baked Beans Peaches Milk	21 Lasagna Roll Salad Mixed Fruit Milk	22 Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Asian Vegetables Carrots Fruit Cup Milk	23 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	24
25 Cobb Salad	26 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Fruit Cup Milk	27 Chicken Nuggets Mac & Cheese Celery & Carrots Pineapple Milk	28 Penne Pasta Bread Salad Oranges Milk	29 Ham & Cheese Sweet Potatoes Green Beans Apple Wedges Milk	30 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	31

Menu Subject to Change



Lunch Menu February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chef Salad	2 Chicken Parmesan Roll Salad Peaches Milk	3 Hot Italian Sub Pasta Salad Corn Fruit Cup Milk	4 Rigatoni Breadstick Salad Pineapple Milk	5 Beef & Bean Burrito Brown Rice Mini Tacos Applesauce Milk	6 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	7
8 Seasoned Chicken Salad	9 Chili Mac Chips & Salsa Salad Pears Milk	10 Chicken Patty Sandwich Celery & Carrots Baked Beans Strawberries Milk	11 Lasagna Roll Salad Fruit Cocktail Milk	12 Chicken Soup Slider Corn Peaches Milk	13 NO SCHOOL	14 
15 Garden Salad	16 NO SCHOOL	17 Chicken Fajita Wrap OR PB&J Spanish Rice Chips & Salsa Oranges Milk	18 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Banana Milk	19 Mac & Cheese Broccoli Carrots Apple Wedges Milk	20 Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	21
22 Cranberry Apple Salad	23 Sloppy Joes Tator Tots Corn Apple Crisp Milk	24 Grilled Chicken Salad Breakstick Carrots Strawberries Milk	25 Shells Roll Salad Fruit Cup Milk	26 Hot Ham & Cheese French Fries Green Beans Pineapple Milk	27 Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	28

Menu Subject to Change