



SAINT JOHN  
SCHOOL

# Parent Newsletter

## March 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

Most people love stories. We read them to young children. Listening to a good story is an activity that appeals to all age groups. Storytelling is a unique talent. It requires a good plot, interesting characters, twists and turns, and often a surprise end. A good storyteller uses his/her voice to captivate the audience.

Jesus was a major storyteller. The parables are the stories recorded in the Gospels. Good storytellers use experiences that the listeners could relate to. Jesus used stories of farming, fishing, families to teach about generosity, forgiveness, resilience and mercy.

Leaders are often called to be storytellers. Stories are about sharing experiences that lead to new understanding. My mom was a good storyteller. She recalled her experiences of growing up in Ireland, living through WWII in London, England during the German bombing years, coming to America across the Atlantic with 3 small children, and expecting a fourth. I was fortunate that my Mom lived in good health until she was 90 and so I enjoyed many of her stories. Yet, like when reading a good book, we always want one more chapter, one more story.

Lent is a good time to reflect on the stories of Jesus especially the parables and for us as Heralds, the Beatitudes. It is also a good time to share our personal stories of faith. At times we are shy about professing our faith publicly. Yet, it is often the real life stories of belief that lead others to the gift of faith. I know that I have been blessed to hear wonderful storytellers, Mary Lou Beers, Fr. John Kraker, to name two that enriched my faith journey. Who have been the storytellers in your life? What stories of faith can you share with your family?

It is no secret that I am proud of my Irish heritage. March offers many opportunities to enjoy an Irish story. One of the stories that my Mother told concerned my great grandfather. There was an English lodge in their small village. It was spacious and lovely. The landlords had a much "richer" life than the rest of the village. On the outside gate of the lodge was a sign that indicated, "No Catholics are allowed in". According to my mother, my great grandfather wrote underneath it, "These words are true, for the same is written on the gates of Hell." The moral is that if we live lives as authentic Christians/Catholics we will be rewarded with everlasting life. I hope that during the month of March you can enjoy an Irish story. More importantly, may we enjoy a story that leads to new insights, greater determination to live authentically, and a realization that there is joy and happiness in being a leader.

## I See The Leader In You!



## Athletic News

If you did not attend the mandatory parent meeting for Spring sports there will be a make up meeting on Monday March 4 at 6:00 pm. This meeting is required by OHSAA and no player may participate in a game or match until parents have attended the meeting. Please contact Mr. Nick Iarocci if you have any questions.

All student service fees must be paid before a student may participate in spring sports.

Spring sports pictures will be taken on March 19 after school.

Winter Sports Awards will take place on two separate days. Middle School awards will be on Wednesday, March 13 and High School will be on Wednesday, March 20. Both will start at 6:00 pm.

## Calendar 2024-2025

As we begin planning for the next school year, we want to share with you some general information about the calendar for the year. School for students will begin on Wednesday, August 21. This will be a full day for all students in Grades K-12. PK will begin on Monday August 26. The last day of school is June 4. Christmas vacation will begin on Monday, December 23 and we return to school on January 6.

A change this year is that we will have spring break from March 24-March 28 and also be off on April 18 (Good Friday) and April 21 (Easter Monday).

A more detailed calendar will be available later in the spring. Please make any travel plans in accordance with these dates.

## Mother Son Breakfast

On Saturday, March 9 we will host a Mother-Son breakfast.

This is an opportunity for Mom to enjoy a morning with their boys. It is open to students in PK-12. The event includes breakfast and an opportunity to enjoy activities together.

There's a form in the E-News to sign up.

We are in need of a few parent volunteers – this would be a great time for Dads to get involved. To volunteer email Sr. Maureen [Mother Son Breakfast Volunteer](#) or sign-up in E-news.

There will also be an opportunity for young ladies in grades 7-12 to volunteer to assist. Check mobile serve for details.

## TWIRP

One of the long standing traditions is the annual TWIRP Dance or as some might call it a Saide Hawkins Dance. This year's dance will take place on Saturday March 2. The sophomore class is sponsoring the event. It will take place in our school gym.

## Parent Ambassadors Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12, 8:00-9:00 am and 2:45-3:45 pm in the school cafeteria.

## PTO

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 pm.

## Lottery Dress Down

March's lottery dress down day will be Friday, March 15.

## Registration 2024-2025

Letters regarding registration and tuition for 2024-2025 will be mailed the week of March 4. A few items to note:

The deadline for registration is March 27. Many of our grade levels will have limited space. We will begin accepting new students and families on April 10. Families who have not turned in registration fees may be in jeopardy of not having a secure spot.

Last year we reminded families that you would be responsible for tracking family volunteer hours to avail themselves of the tuition discount. Please review the volunteer opportunities that qualify for the discount. The link will be in the E-News. With the registration letters we will include information on how to apply for financial assistance and scholarship opportunities.

We encourage you to apply for EdChoice opportunities as soon as possible. If you need assistance, please contact Mary Ann Hartwell at [mhartwell@sjheralds.org](mailto:mhartwell@sjheralds.org). or Keith Corlew at [kcorlew@sjheralds.org](mailto:kcorlew@sjheralds.org).

## NO SCHOOL

There will be no school on Monday, March 18. Easter Break will begin on Friday, March 29-April 8.

## Solar Eclipse

On April 8, residents of Northeast Ohio including Ashtabula will experience a total eclipse of the sun. This will be the only occurrence in Ohio until 2099. As recommended by local safety officials, there will be no school that day.

## Saint Patrick's Day Raffle

The Saint Patrick's Day Reverse Raffle will be in person on Saturday, March 16. The 7 Lucky Nights will be a virtual event from March 8-March 16. It will include the main raffle, cash raffles, and other items. This is one of the two school fundraisers. We count on the funds raised from this to offset costs not covered by tuition.

Main board tickets are \$300 and there will be more than 20 winners for cash prizes of \$200-\$4,000. That's one winner for every ten participants. Dinner tickets are \$50 and include choice of Prime Rib, Stuffed Chicken or Vegetable Lasagna as well as appetizers, dessert and an open bar.

We ask your assistance in a number of ways:

- 1) Send in a gift card valued at \$10-25. Those who do will have a dress down day on March 8th.
- 2) Spend \$25 during the course of the raffle. Those who do will be able to dress down on March 22.
- 3) Buy or sell a main board ticket and dress down on March 8 and March 22.
- 4) Volunteer to help with the event/ We need assistance on March 15 and 16. To volunteer contact Teri Biggins. If you have an item that you think would be appropriate for the raffle, please contact Teri Biggins at [tbiggins@sjheralds.org](mailto:tbiggins@sjheralds.org) or call her at 440-997-5531 x 259. We are looking for Guardian or Cavs tickets or other such items.

This raffle allows us to reduce tuition by more than \$125 per student.

## Easter Egg Hunt

This year we will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for Saint John students enrolled in grades PK-2 on Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 am. An online sign up form will be sent to all PK-2 families.



## New ACT Dates...

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)	
<b>April 13, 2024</b>	<b>March 8, 2024</b>	<b>March 22, 2024</b>	
ACT (No Writing)	\$68.00	Standby Testing	ADD \$68.00
ACT Plus Writing	\$93.00	Test Option Change	ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$36.00	Change Fee:	ADD \$42.00

Visit [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) 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> (Late Registration Fee Required)	
<b>May 4, 2024</b>	<b>April 19, 2024</b>	<b>April 23, 2024</b>	
SAT Test	\$60.00	Cancel Registration	ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$30.00	Late Cancel Registration	ADD:\$35.00
Change Registration	ADD \$30.00		

Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.

Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for online registration and practice resources.

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

## COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CCP)

Students in grades 7 - 11 who are interested in taking classes at Kent State University (Ashtabula) or other higher education institutions for the first time in the 2023 – 2024 school year please contact Melissa Nooney [mnooney@sjheralds.org](mailto:mnooney@sjheralds.org). This will enable you to meet deadlines for financial and entrance applications.

**April 1st at 5:00pm** is the deadline for applications for the State of Ohio to award hours. For more information please visit: <https://www.kent.edu/ashtabula/ccp>. **June 1st** is the deadline for applications to Kent State University - Ashtabula Campus for Fall Admissions.

## Seniors

Attention Seniors, local scholarships will start to trickle into the Guidance office so make sure to check your email, Google classroom, and the Guidance Office for applications.

Also, please save and turn in a copy of all college acceptance letters and scholarship award letters even if you do not plan to attend the college or accept the scholarship offer.

**March 12, 2024** will be a College Day for Seniors. The Juniors will be taking the ACT that day and Seniors may use that day to explore careers or visit college campuses.

## TESTING

**Juniors** - ACT Testing will be given on **March 12, 2024**. Juniors may dress down and will be dismissed after testing. Students must arrive by 7:50am, students will **not** be allowed to begin the test after it has started. There will **not** be a make-up day for ACT testing. MyACT accounts will be created with the Juniors with the Guidance Department prior to testing.

**Sophomores** - Pre-ACT Testing will be given on **March 12, 2024**. Students must arrive by 7:50am, students will not be allowed to begin the test after it has started. Students should dress in uniforms that day. They will have a regular schedule after the test ends. There will **not** be a make-up day for Pre-ACT testing.

## ADDITIONAL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

We are adding an additional Parent Conference Day for Grades PK-6 on Monday, March 4th. **Students in grades PK-6 will not have school on this day.** Signups are in the weekly E-News.

## END OF THIRD QUARTER

The end of quarter three will be Friday, March 8. Report Cards will be mailed home the week of March 17th.

Saint John School  
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Ashtabula, OH 44004

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[www.sjheralds.org](http://www.sjheralds.org)  
Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



## CAMPUS MINISTRY CORNER

Friday, March 1st: 9th Grade Retreat  
Wednesday, March 5th: Confessions for Lent at 12:30 pm  
Thursday, March 7th: 5th Grade Mass at 1:30 pm  
Friday, March 8th: 10th Grade Retreat  
Thursday, March 14th: 4th Grade Mass at 12:00 pm  
Thursday, March 21st: 7th Grade Mass at 10:05 am  
Friday, March 22nd: Spanish Mass at 1:30 pm  
Thursday, March 28th: Stations of the Cross by 8th Grade at 1:00 pm

JOURNEY  
OF  
*Faith*

### Lent and Holy Week

Students will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 5. During Lent homerooms have the opportunity to support those in need on a global level through projects sponsored by Heiffer International. Watch the weekly E-News for more details. On a local level, we will be collecting food items that are needed for homeless youth.

The week of March 24-March 30 is considered by Christians as "Holy Week". As a school we will be providing opportunities for students to reflect on the meaning of the events leading up to Easter.

On Holy Thursday, March 28 we will gather as a school community to pray a modified version of the Stations of the Cross. This is open to all of our families. Check the e-newsletter for exact time of the prayer service.







### Student Service Hours

This is a reminder that students in grades 7-12 are required to complete 20 hours (grades 9-12) and 10 hours (grades 7-8). The month of March has many opportunities for students – our St. Patrick's Day raffle, parish and community Fish Fries, Easter Egg Hunt, Mother-Son Breakfast. All of these opportunities are posted on mobile serve. Service hours are to be completed by May 1.



# Activity Calendar March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 Parent/Teacher Conferences PK-6 <b>NO SCHOOL for PK—6 grade</b>	5	6	7 Dress Code Celebration Dress Down Day	8 St. Patrick's Day Dress Down Day <b>End of 3rd Quarter</b>	9 Mother-Son Breakfast 10:00 am
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins 	11	12 PTO Meeting 6:00 pm Parent Ambassadors Meeting 8-9 am & 2:45—3:45 pm	13 Middle School Winter Sports Awards 6:00 pm	14	15 Lottery Dress Down	16 St. Patrick's Day Raffle 
17 	18 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	19	20 High School Winter Sports Awards 6:00 pm	21	22 St. Patrick's Day Dress Down Day	23
24	25	26 4th Grade Field Trip	27 4th Grade Field Trip	28 4th Grade Field Trip <b>Stations of the Cross 1:00 pm</b>	29 Good Friday <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	30 Easter Egg Hunt Grades PK-2- 10 am 
31 Easter Sunday 						

Calendar Subject to Change



## ACMC Academy

ACMC Academy gives high school students an opportunity to gain exposure to healthcare careers and learn about employment options here in Ashtabula County. ACMC Orientation will be held on **June 17** and the summer program runs **June 18 - August 8**.

Students spend an average of 24 hours per week side-by-side with clinical professionals in departments throughout the hospital; alternate and limited schedules may be available upon request. In addition to specific department rotations, students participate in special lunch-and-learn sessions to learn about other hospital departments, including non-clinical areas such as Information Technology, Human Resources, and Marketing.

All students who successfully complete the full-time ACMC Academy program (190 hours) earn a \$500 scholarship. Students who successfully complete a limited schedule (95 hours) will earn a \$250 scholarship. Two participants who demonstrate the best performance throughout the program may also receive an additional \$1,000 scholarship. Funding for the program is possible through the generosity of donors to ACMC Foundation.

To be considered for the ACMC Academy, a student must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and have no more than three absences/tardies in the previous semester (COVID-19 or extenuating circumstance absences will be considered).

The following 2 forms are required for consideration for ACMC Academy:

ACMC Academy Program Information Sheet 2024

ACMC Academy Application 2024

All complete applications are due by **March 25, 2024**. If you have any questions, you may contact Amy Price at (440) 997-6604 or [amy.price@acmchealth.org](mailto:amy.price@acmchealth.org). Completed applications can be mailed, delivered in person or scanned/emailed by the deadline. Mail to: Amy Price, Associate Director, ACMC Foundation \* 2420 Lake Ave, Ashtabula OH 44004. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Transcripts and letters of recommendation must be provided in school-sealed envelopes or emailed directly by school officials. These documents must be received by the deadline in order for an application to be considered complete. Please note the application deadline as it relates to your school's Spring Break.

The application can be found online at: <https://www.acmchealth.org/foundation/scholarships/>

## **Learning About Business:**

Thinking of one day owning your own business, possibly majoring in business or just want to know more about how businesses are run? If so, check out this amazing opportunity.

**Learning About Business (LAB)** is a nonprofit organization that runs a week-long summer camp for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to learn the basics of running a business from both the corporate and entrepreneurial perspectives. This total immersion, interactive business experience will be held on the campus of *Lake Erie College* in Painesville, from **Sunday, June 16th through Friday, June 21th, 2024**. Local business leaders and professionals act as presenters and resources, guiding the students through six days of intense hands-on learning, competition and personal growth. Students are grouped into teams to develop and run a virtual online company - applying the lessons learned throughout the day to executive level decisions that impact their company's market share.

Students of LAB Week 2023 will earn *THREE college credits* for their participation in the program. Learning About Business and Lake Erie College (LEC) have partnered to offer credit for LEC's Fundamentals of the Enterprise as transferable credits to any college or university. Students who successfully complete LAB Week are also eligible for a \$4,000 scholarship should they decide to attend Lake Erie College.

Additionally, students have the opportunity to improve soft skills like interpersonal communications, strategic thinking, creative problem solving, and leadership. By the end of the week, students learn not only the basics of running a business, but also gain valuable employability skills which will give them an advantage during future job interviews.

**The cost of the camp for students is only \$350 that includes room, board and materials. No qualified student is turned away, full scholarships are available for those with financial need. And new this year, we will be offering an opportunity for students to apply for a merit scholarship.**

There are applications in the Guidance Office

Please reach out to Marie Graf with any questions at 216-543-0071 or

[marie@learningaboutbusiness.org](mailto:marie@learningaboutbusiness.org)

The website: <https://www.learningaboutbusiness.org/>