



Parent Newsletter

March/April 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

I enjoy doing crossword puzzles, playing Wordle online and learning new words. It's no wonder then, that I am enjoying a book by Regina Brett, *52 Words*. She reflects on one word in each chapter and there are 52 chapters. I've been reading and reflecting on a word a week.

If I were to choose one word for Lent, it would be thirst. We start the Lenten journey in the desert, a dry, arid place. We are reminded throughout the 40 days of Lent that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. Just as our bodies thirst for water our soul yearns for the living water of God's grace; spiritual thirst is a feeling that we are missing something and a sense that we can't fill it on our own.

My word for Easter is fullness. As we experience the Resurrection our hearts overflow. When our hearts and souls recognize the extent of God's love for - willing to die for us - we cannot see the world the same way. How we interact with others, how we live our daily life's radically changes.

So in March and April we are immersed in thirst to fullness. Throughout this time we will focus on water and how it enriches our life, and to realize that people in many parts of the world do not have access to water. We take it for granted but this is not the case for many of our brothers and sisters.

As we move through Lent and come to the joy of Easter, may our hearts truly thirst for God and may we share the abundance of our lives with those who have so little.



REMINDER

The EdChoice and Jon Peterson scholarship application is now open. Letters and the application forms have been mailed home. If you wish to be considered for low income priority remember you must upload your income information. Please contact Mrs. Hartwell at mhartwell@sjheralds.org or 440-997-5531 ext, 222 if you need assistance.

Focused Minds; Lead with Purpose.

MARCH NEWS

2026-2027 Course Selection

Course selection sheets have been distributed to students for the upcoming school year. Please review the information carefully as a family and discuss course choices together. Completed forms are due back to the school by **March 2**. Please note that the Course Catalog is available on our school website under academics.

If you have any questions about placement or course options, please reach out to the Guidance Office.

No School

There will be no school on Friday, March 13 as the teachers will be having a Professional Development Day.

Class of 2026

On Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 pm we will host meeting for parents of students in the Class of 2026. Light supper will be provided. The purpose of the meeting is to go over the end of the year activities and to answer any questions. It is important that all families are at the meeting.

Ripcho Studios will be at school on Monday, March 30 to take pictures of the Class of 2026. They take a picture in their cap and gown and a head shot. Both of these pictures are used in the yearbook. Families may order copies of the photos, especially the cap and gown photos. Boys are required to be in a white dress shirt, tie, dark pants, and dress shoes and must be neatly shaved. Girls are required to be in a light-colored dress and dress shoes.

Feast of St Joseph

On Thursday, March 19 we will welcome our Diocesan Bishop, Bishop David Bonnar, to celebrate Mass with us at 9:45 am. All are welcome to join us.

This is a Dress Uniform Day

Mother son Breakfast

PTO will sponsor our Mother-Son breakfast on Saturday, March 21 beginning at 10:00 am. Look for details and registration information in our weekly enews.

School Play

The drama department under the direction of Mrs. Kile, will present Matilda, The Musical. It promises to be a delightful performance.

Show times are, Friday, March 27 at 7:00 pm, Saturday, March 28 at 7:00 pm and Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Please come support our young thespians

2026-2026 School Calendar

As we begin planning for the next school year, we want to share with you some general information about the calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. School for students will begin on Tuesday, August 18. This will be a full day for all students in Grades K-12. PK will begin on Monday, August 24. Christmas vacation will begin on Monday, December 21 and we return to school on January 4. Spring break will be on Holy Thursday, March 25 and we will return to school on April 5. The last day of school is May 27. Please make any travel plans in accordance with these dates.

You can find next year's school calendar on the schools website.

7 Lucky Nights & St. Patrick's Day Raffle

The lucky little leprechauns at Saint John School have some **BIG** fun planned for Saint Patrick's Day...where your night out benefits the entire school! Online shenanigans begin with Seven Lucky Nights (March 6 - 14, 2026) **AND** enjoy in-person hijinks at the Saint Patrick's Day Reverse Raffle (Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 5:30pm). Dinner tickets are \$50 (choice of prime rib or chicken) and Main Board Tickets are \$300. Appetizers, open bar, dessert, speciality raffles, and more await. To register, reserve your seat, and/or to purchase main board tickets, visit www.bidpal.net/stpat26.

SGO Deadline is April 15th!

Do you pay Ohio income tax? If so, direct your taxes to Saint John School and you can receive a **TAX CREDIT** via the Saint John Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). The SGO deadline is April 15, 2026. For more information, please contact your tax preparer, visit www.sjheralds.org/support, or call Kristen Kitchen at 440-997-5531 x236. Last year, this impactful program resulted in over \$180,000 in scholarship assistance. Can we surpass \$250,000 this year?

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is required of all children **NEW** to Saint John School who are applying for kindergarten enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. Please contact Keith Corlew to schedule your appointment. There will be **no school** on Friday, March 27 for the **Current Kindergarten classes**.

Shadowing Days

On Wednesday, March 25 and Tuesday, March 31 shadowing is available for potential **NEW** students considering enrollment for grades 5-12 in 2026-2027. Please contact Keith Corlew at 440-997-5531 ext. 226 or kciorlew@sjheralds.org to schedule.

Kairos = "Time with God"

On March 8-10, Saint John School will celebrate our Kairos 1 retreat! As our student ministry team, Acts 29, strengthened, members of the Class of '26 decided to expand our opportunities to grow closer to God. The adventure began last year with team and staff members attending a Kairos retreat run by Catholic Central High School (CCHS) in Steubenville. Our juniors experienced 3 days in an environment led by CCHS seniors. Our spirits were nurtured by Mass, Adoration, several witness talks with breakout sessions, along with multiple activities and adventures.

This year, five of those students, now SJS seniors, will be hosting a group of underclassmen at Loyola Retreat House for our own "Time with God" journey. This is a prime example of the Holy Spirit moving our youth to be the Christian leaders that Saint John School focuses on creating. Keep an eye on our newsletters and social media for updates on our venture. In the meantime, please pray for us as our students and staff experience the spiritual growth that will inspire our participating juniors to be the leaders of Kairos 2 in 2027.



APRIL NEWS

Easter Break

Our Easter break begins on Good Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 12. School resumes on Monday, April 13. Office Hours during Easter Vacation are Tuesday, April 7-Friday, April 11. The office will be open from 9:00 am-1:30 pm. Friday, April 3 and Monday, April 6 school and offices will be completely closed; no practices etc.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 4 there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for Saint John students enrolled in PK-2. A link to register will be sent to our families in grades PK-2.

Volunteer Dinner

Saturday, April 25 will be a volunteer appreciation dinner. We will host an evening of appreciation for all our volunteers. It will be a catered dinner by Halcyon in the Kanicki cafeteria. Dinner will be at 5:30 pm.

The link to RSVP is below:

[RSVP for Volunteer Appreciation dinner](#)

GUIDANCE NEWS

Seniors and Senior Families

Please keep an eye out for Scholarships. Mrs. Steele sends announcements via email, posts them in our Senior Guidance Google Classroom, and has paper copies in the Guidance Office.

A reminder to Seniors and their families, please keep copies of **ALL** scholarships received by your student even if they did not accept them. As well as, any acceptance letters even the letters from the schools they will not be attending in the fall.

Testing Information:

K-11 NWEA MAPS Testing will take place April 27th to May 1st. Make-ups will be May 4th to May 8th.

Next ACT testing date is April 11.

Science Fair

Mark your calendars! Our Science Fair Evening Event will take place on April 21 from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Important Times:

Judge orientation will begin promptly at 4:30 PM.

Doors open at 4:45 PM for 8th-grade presenters.

Our 8th-grade students are hard at work on their science fair projects, guided and mentored by the Science Department. To help them prepare for their final product, they will complete portions of the project as formative assignments along the way. The final project will include a report, presentation, and display board.

All requirements and deadlines are posted in their Science Fair Google Classroom. Students and families are encouraged to review these expectations carefully to stay on track.

We are calling on high school students and members of Saint John Adult Community to volunteer their time and support our young scientists. Your involvement makes a huge difference! Please be on the lookout for the volunteer sign-up information coming soon.

We look forward to celebrating the creativity, curiosity, and hard work of our 8th-grade scientists and engineers on April 21!

Re-Enrollment

Information on tuition and re-enrollment for 2026-2027 will be sent home via US mail in mid March. In order for a family to re-register all financial obligations must be current.

To apply for financial assistance please click: [Financial Aid application 2026](#)



Scan Me

Deadline for applying for Financial Aid is Thursday, April 2.

Who should apply for Financial Aid

You are on an EdChoice Expansion Scholarship and you are seeking assistance for the difference in the scholarship and the Saint John tuition.

You are on the Jon Peterson Scholarship Speech only and are asking for tuition assistance since the Jon Peterson speech scholarship does not cover Tuition.

I am seeking assistance for the student service fee
I will have a child in PK and as seeking Tuition Assistance.

Enrollment of new students

As you know, space is extremely limited (and in some cases no space) in many of our grades. We do however encourage families to apply as circumstances change for a variety of reasons. Our next shadow day for students to visit is April 14. Students in grade 4-11 must shadow before their application may be reviewed.

Blood Drive

Key Club is sponsoring a blood donation drive on Thursday, April 16 at 2:30 pm. Red Cross is in need of blood please consider donating and saving a life.

Junior High Field Trip

This year grades 6, 7 and 8th will be traveling to Washington DC. The group will be leaving on Friday, April 17 and returning on Sunday evening. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels.

Jr. High Spring Fling

Junior High Spring Fling is Friday, April 24 at 5:00 pm.

Band Concert

We will be having a concert on Thursday, April 30 at 6:00 pm in the Mahoney gymnasium. It will include the 5th and 6th grade Choir, our Beginning Band, Concert Band and our High School Music Class.



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Ashtabula/St.John/Sts.John & Paul High School

And keep up to date by visiting our website:

www.sjheralds.org

Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



“Water for Life”

In the gospels, Jesus offers us “living water.” Each year, Saint John School enhances our Lenten experience with focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving/charity. In 2026, in cooperation with Cross Catholic Outreach, we are challenging our school community to raise \$4,500 to build a well for a village in Africa that does not have access to clean water. In the tradition of Lent, we ask you to pray for the success of this inspirational endeavor while our students engage in weekly stories and activities that help them appreciate the undertaking. Also, we appeal to you to motivate your pupil by giving up a luxury to save at least \$8 per person or family. Lastly, we request that you charitably donate these savings to our “Water for Life” cause.

Not only will this Lenten journey enhance your child’s understanding of their faith and call to community, your efforts will help underprivileged families thrive for generations to come. An exciting new aspect of this year’s mission is that we will receive future updates and videos of our project taking shape in the village we plan to assist. Our students will see exactly where, how, and who their prayers, fasting, and almsgiving energies are touching. Keep an eye on our newsletters and social media for further summaries of your efforts. God Bless!

Athletic News

Winter Sports Awards

Winter Sports Awards will take place on Wednesday, March 11. Jr. High will begin at 6:00 pm and High School at 7:15 pm.

Spring Sports Pictures

Pictures for Spring Sports will be on Wednesday, March 18 beginning at 2:30 pm.

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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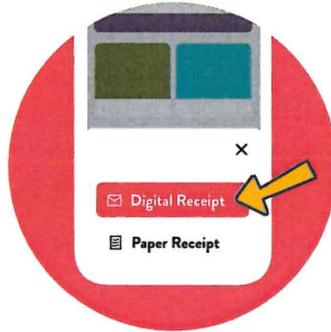
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Activity Calendar March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Grades 8-11 Course Selection	3 4th Grade Camp Parent Meeting - 6 pm	4	5	6 7 Lucky Nights Begins St. Patrick's Day Dress Down Cash or Gift Card Donation	7 Twirp Dance 7:00 pm
8 7 Lucky Nights Kairos Retreat	9	10 PTO Meeting-6:00pm	11 Winter Sports Awards Jr. High-6:00 pm High School-7:15pm	12 End of Quarter 3	13 NO SCHOOL	14 St. Patrick's Day Raffle
15	16 Field Trips Grades 9-12-SkyZone Grades 3-5-Rollhouse	17 	18 Field Trip Gr. K-2- Rollhouse Sprint Sports Pictures 2:30 pm Senior Parent Meeting 6:00 pm	19 All School Liturgy 9:45 am With Bishop Bonnar Dress Uniform Day Grades 7-12 Reconciliation	20 Lottery Dress Down St. Patrick's Day Dress Down Spent \$25 or more online raffle	21 Mother-Son Breakfast 10:00 am
22	23 4th Grade Camp Chaperone Meeting 6:00 pm	24	25	26 9th Grade Service Day Grades 3-6 Reconciliation	27 9th Grade Retreat School Play - 7:00 pm No Kindergarten Classes	28 School Play 7:00 pm
29 School Play 2:00 pm	30 Senior Cap & Gown Pictures 8:00 am	31 Chrism Mass in Youngstown				

Activity Calendar April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Easter Sunday 	6 Spring	7 Spring	8 Spring	9 Break	10 Break	11 Break
12	13 School Resumes	14 PTO Meeting 8:00 am	15 4th Grade Camp Trip	16 Blood Drive— 2:30pm	17 Lottery Dress Down Jr. High Field Trip To Washington DC	18 Jr. High Field Trip To Washington DC
19 Jr. High Field Trip To Washington DC	20	21 Grade 8 Science Fair 5:00—7:00 pm	22	23 8th Grade Service Day	24 8th Grade Retreat <u>Spring Fling</u> 5:00 pm	25 Volunteer Appreciation Event 5:30 pm
26	27 Grades K-11 NWEA Testing	28	29	30 Band Concert 6:00 pm		
				Grade 11-John Carroll University Visit		



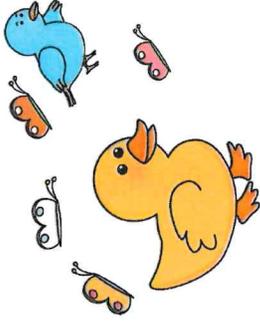
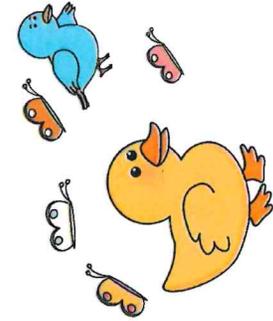
Lunch Menu March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chef Salad	2 Turkey Sandwich OR PB&J Tator Tots Salad Applesauce Cup Milk	3 Taco Salad Chips & Salsa Corn Peaches Milk	4 Rotini Salad Bread Fruit Milk	5 Hamburgers French Fries Green Beans Oranges Milk	6 Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	7
8 Chicken BLT Salad	9 Chili Pepperoni Ball Salad Fruit Cocktail Milk	10 Hot Dogs Potato Wedges Mixed Vegetables Pears Milk	11 Penne Pasta Salad Roll Fruit Milk	12 Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Broccoli Pineapple Milk	13 NO SCHOOL	14
15 Taco Salad	16 Popcorn Chicken Mac & Cheese Baked Beans Applesauce Milk	17 Hot Italian Subs OR PB & J Sweet Potatoes Cucumbers Mandarin Orange Milk	18 Lasagna Salad Breadstick Fruit Milk	19 Cheese Omelet Sausage Hash Brown Toast O. J. Milk	20 Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	21
22 Cobb Salad	23 Pizzaburgers Salad California Blend Peaches Milk	24 Tacos Quesadillas Refried Beans Pineapple Milk	25 Rigatoni Salad Roll Fruit Milk	26 Creamed Chicken Mashed Potatoes Corn Fruit Cup Milk	27 Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	28
29 Chef Salad	30 Orange Chicken Brown Rice Broccoli & Carrots Pineapple Cookie Milk	31 Cheeseburgers French Fries Corn Strawberries Milk				

Menu Subject to Change

Lunch Menu April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Chef Salad			1 Shells Salad Roll Fruit Milk	2 Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	3 NO SCHOOL	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Taco Salad	Chicken Pattie Sandwich Mashed Potatoes Corn Fruit Cup Milk	Hot Dogs Waffle Fries Celery & Carrots Peaches Milk	Rotini Salad Breadstick Fruit Milk	Hamburgers Tator Tots Green Beans Pears Milk	Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Grilled Chicken Salad with Cranberries	BBQ Pork Sandwich OR PB&J French Fries Baked Beans Applesauce Milk	Popcorn Nuggets Sweet Potatoes Cucumbers Mixed Fruit Milk	Penne Pasta Salad Roll Fruit Milk	Turkey Slider Mac & Cheese Carrots Pineapple Milk	Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	
26	27	28	29	30		
Cobb Salad	Pepperoni Roll Pasta Salad Corn Strawberries Milk	Asian Chicken Brown Rice Broccoli Oranges Cookie Milk	Lasagna Salad Bread Fruit Milk	Hot Dogs French Fries Mixed Vegetables Apple Wedges Milk		

Menu Subject to Change