



Parent Newsletter October/November 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

Stores have had displays of Halloween decorations and costumes up for weeks, and I have already overheard students talking about what they will be for Halloween. Superheroes are always a popular choice. That seems to fit right into our theme, **Bring Your Best**, because superheroes generally bring their best. But not all superheroes wear capes—or become the subject of a Halloween costume.

Fred Rogers offered a wonderful example. He never hit a home run, discovered a cure, or led a major corporation. His gift was much quieter. He had an extraordinary ability to listen, recognize the dignity of others, and help children understand that they mattered. He took the gifts God gave him and spent a lifetime using them for others.

My personal superhero was my godmother, Marge Walsh. Perhaps it was because she always made me a pineapple upside-down cake, was an avid baseball fan, played the accordion, and sang beautiful Irish songs. As I grew older, she also became one of my biggest cheerleaders.

But I think it was more than that. Marge was a lifelong learner, earning her nursing license years after immigrating from Ireland. She was a Do It Yourselfer long before it was trendy. She faced health challenges without complaint and, most importantly, lived with a deep and abiding faith. Marge understood that bringing your best was not about being noticed. It was simply how you lived.

Perhaps Fred and Marge offer us an important lesson. Bringing our best does not mean that we have to **be the best**. It means recognizing the gifts God has given us, developing them, and asking how we can use them to make a difference in someone else's life.

We see those superheroes every day at Saint John: a student who notices someone sitting alone, a teacher who gives extra time to a struggling student, an athlete who encourages a teammate, a parent who volunteers, or an alumnus who gives back.

As a Catholic school, we believe our gifts are never intended for ourselves alone. Jesus calls us to use them in love and service to one another.

So, this fall, perhaps we should ask ourselves two questions: **How am I bringing my best to others? And who around me is bringing their best—and have I taken the time to let them know I see it?**

Sometimes bringing our best means recognizing the best in someone else. **No cape required.**

That is how we live the Saint John mission—**Developing Scholarship, Deepening Faith, Inspiring Leadership.**

Bring Your Best

OCTOBER NEWS

Parent Conferences Grades PK-12

Parent/Teacher conferences will be on Thursday, October 1 for PK-12 grade. You received information regarding parent conferences via weekly newsletter. These are in person or virtual conferences. If you still need to sign up for a conference time, please go to the link that was in the enews.

Parent Conferences Grades PK-6

Virtual conferences for grades PK-6 will take place on Friday, October 2. There is **no school** for students in grades PK-6 on that day.

Kelly Colangelo

Kelly Colangelo is a youth minister in Florida, but also speaks at schools throughout the country. She will be at Saint John on Tuesday, October 6 to speak with students in grades 9-12, about her faith journey.

FAFSA Meeting

There will be a meeting on FAFSA for seniors and their parents on Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 pm in the Kanicki Café.

Picture Re-take Day

Picture re-takes will be on Friday, October 9. Please bring your original package on that day if you are retaking pictures.

No School

There will be no school on Monday, October 12. Faculty will be involved in a diocesan wide professional development conference.

PTO

PTO will be meeting on Tuesday, October 13 at 8:00 am in the conference room.

College Visit

Seniors will not be in school on Tuesday, October 13 as they will be visiting colleges on that day.

Coffee Talk

We will be having our first coffee talk on Thursday, October 15 for parents in grades PK-3 at 8:00 am in the Kanicki Café.

Senior Parents/ Guardians

Please remember to send in your 7 digital photos from highlights of your child's life. We ask for representation from all phases of their childhood until today. Any format works as long as the pictures are digital. The due date is October 15, yet the sooner the better as the poster creation process is extensive.

Retreat for Grade 11

The Junior class will be having their retreat on Friday, October 16. On Thursday, October 15 they will be having a day of service at GO Ministries and Catholic Charities. Please keep the junior class in your prayers. More details will be in the weekly enews.

October 16

Friday, October 16 is the last day for students to wear shorts or skorts to school. They can begin wearing them again on April 15, 2027.

Trunk or Treat

PTO will sponsor our annual Trunk or Treat festival on Friday, October 16. All our families are invited. PTO will send out directives on how to sign up.

Project Grow

Project Grow is an opportunity for Saint John students to assist our neighbors with fall clean up projects. Students will receive information about how to volunteer in theology classes. This will take place on Sunday, October 18.

Spirit Week

Spirit Week will take place the week of October 18. Student Council will be planning a variety of activities to unite students. More details regarding activities will come in the weekly enews. Some items to note: **Thursday**, October 22 will be the homecoming parade. All are welcome to the parade which will begin at 6:00. Students in PK-8 must be accompanied by parents/guardians. Post parade activities are for students in grades 9-12. We would ask that younger students leave at the conclusion of the parade. **Friday**, October 23 will be the Homecoming Football game and the presentation of the Homecoming Court at Lakeside football Stadium. Presentation of the Court will take place at 6:00 pm. **Saturday**, October 24 will be the Homecoming Dance at the school.

Please check the weekly e-news for spirit week dress down guidelines.

All School Liturgy

Thursday, October 22 we will celebrate an all school liturgy. **This will be a Uniform Dress Day.**

Winter OHSAA Sports Meeting

The **mandatory** meeting for student-athletes involved in basketball, bowling, cheerleading and wrestling is on October 27 at 6:00 pm. Students are not permitted to participate in practice or games until they have attended this meeting. All student service fees must also be paid by November 1 for students to participate in interscholastic sports.

Halloween Celebration

Our Halloween parties for students in Grades PK-6 will take place on Friday, October 30. Homeroom Parents will be in contact with regards to how parents can assist. On that same day we will have students in PK-6 enjoy a Halloween parade. Students will parade around outside the school. Parents and families are welcome to watch the parade beginning at 1:00 pm. If you are coming into the building after the parade, we ask that you enter through the cafeteria so that we can scan all visitors into the building.

Students in Grades 7-12 may wear a Halloween costume if they choose by donating \$5.00 for a local charity.

NOVEMBER NEWS

All School Liturgy

We will be having a Mass for All Souls Day on Monday, November 2 at 9:45 am. All are welcome to join us.

This is a dress uniform day.

College Credit Plus (CCP) Information Meeting

This meeting is for parent (s) and students in grades 7-11 who are interested in taking classes at Kent State University (Ashtabula) for the 2027-2028 school year. The meeting will be held on November 4 at 6:00 pm.

Fall Sports Awards

Awards for fall sports will be presented on Monday, November 9 at 6:00 pm for middle school and Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 pm for high school.

PTO

PTO will meet on Tuesday, November 10 at 8:00 am in the conference room.

Mass of Remembrance

Saint John School will celebrate a Mass of Remembrance on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm in the chapel with fellowship and a dessert reception after. Invitations are sent to all families we know have lost a loved one this year but we may not know of everyone. If you would like to notify us of a loved one's passing and have their name included in the Mass, please contact Christy Garrod at cgarrod@sjheralds.org. All are welcome to attend.

Double Day

Saint John parents already give so much—time, energy, encouragement, and trust. A gift to the **Herald Fund** is another way to invest directly in the students, teachers, programs, and opportunities that make a Saint John education special.

November 11 is Herald Giving Day, but there's good news: **every gift made during the entire month of November will be doubled!** A \$25 gift becomes \$50. A \$100 gift becomes \$200. Every gift—no matter the size—makes a difference.

Parent participation matters. When our families give, it sends a powerful message: **We believe in Saint John. We believe in our students. We believe in our future.**

This November, **Bring Your Best. Give what you can. Double your impact.**

Blood Drive

Key Club will be hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, November 12 beginning at 2:30 pm. Please consider giving blood to save a life.

National Honor Society Induction

The newest members of the NHS will be inducted on Thursday, November 12 at 6:00 pm. The students chosen for this are chosen based on qualities of scholarship, character, service and leadership.

Senior Retreat

The class of 2027 will be having their retreat on Friday & Saturday, November 13 & 14. Please keep them in your prayers as they strengthen their faith journey.

Coffee Talk

We will have our second coffee talk on Wednesday, November 18 at 8:00 am for parents in grades 4-6.

Thanksgiving All School Liturgy

On Thursday, November 19 we will be having a Mass of Remembrance and Gratitude at 9:45 am.

This is a uniform dress day. All are invited.

Winter Sport Pictures

Pictures for students involved in winter sports will be taken on Thursday, November 19 beginning at 2:30 pm.

Fall Play

The Drama Department will present the play "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" on Friday, November 20 at 7:00 pm and Sunday November 22 at 3:00 pm. This hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids – probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem – and the fun – when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas! This delightful show is adapted from the best-selling Young Adult book. Cost of tickets are: General Admission—\$10.00, Students—\$5.00.

After School Program

There will be NO after school on Monday & Tuesday, November 23 & 24. Please mark your calendars.

Office Hours

The office will be closed on Wednesday, November 24 through Friday, November 27.

Looking ahead

December 2 – Holiday Band Concert
December 7-11 Santa Shoppe
Dec 12 – Breakfast with Santa
December 14 – Christmas Ugly Sweater Day

December 15-17 – Semester Exams Grades 7-12
December 17 – Christmas concerts – Grades PK-6
December 18 – Class parties Grades PK-6
December 21-January 3 – Christmas vacation

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



33rd Annual Festival of Trees

Reserve your tickets for the 33rd Annual Festival of Trees at Saint John School and kick-off the holiday season with your school family! Scheduled for **Saturday, November 28th** at 5:30pm, your \$50 ticket includes appetizers, dinner, dessert, beer/wine and a holiday surprise...or two! Round tables of 6 are available for \$300 and rectangle tables of 8 are available for \$400. Questions? Contact Kristen Kitchen at kkitchen@sjheralds.org or 440-997-5531 x236

12 Days of Christmas

<https://onecau.se/fot2026> is the place to be for prize-filled fun from **November 14 – 28, 2026** for Saint John School's 12 Days of Christmas! This online extravaganza includes chances to win special gifts for everyone on your list, all while supporting our Saint John School students.

Calling on You for Two!

Can you share two hours this holiday season? We need YOU as a Festival of Trees volunteer on **Saturday, November 28, 2026!** Please contact Kristen Kitchen with your interest at kkitchen@sjheralds.org or 440-997-5531 x236.

Dress Down Days for Festival of Trees

Planning for the 33rd Annual Festival of Trees has begun and features both online & in-person festivities. We are kindly asking families to participate by donating \$15 per student or \$20 per family by October 31, 2026 to assist us in purchasing gift cards and raffle prizes for our school sponsored items. As a special thank-you, your student(s) will have a Dress Down Day on **November 20, 2026**. Please send to your youngest student's homeroom teacher marked with your child(ren) name. And, if you participate in the 12 Days of Christmas or Festival of Trees (as a volunteer, cookie baker, attendee, or donor of \$25+ at the online or in-person events), your family will receive a Dress Down Day on a TBD in December or January to celebrate, too. Thank you for your support of this Saint John School tradition!

Presentation on Preventing Sexual Abuse

A survivor of sexual abuse and a detective from the Ohio Attorney General's Office will be speaking to freshman students during a class assembly on Monday, October 28. Their presentation will inform students about keeping safe from sexual grooming and steps to take if they are in an unsafe relationship. Counselors will be available for students during and after the presentation. Parents who wish to opt their child out of the presentation or need more information, should contact Mrs. Brace (mbrace@sjheralds.org),



Lunch Menu October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Chicken BLT Salad	5 Chicken Parmesan Salad Roll Mandarin Oranges Milk	6 Taco Salad Chips Black Bean&Corn Salsa Pineapple Milk	7 Shells Salad Roll Pears Milk	1 Hamburgers French Fries Baked Beans Fruit Cocktail Milk	2 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	3
11 Chef Salad	12 NO SCHOOL	13 Quesadilla Refried Beans Corn Peaches Milk	14 Rotini Salad Breadstick Apple Wedges Milk	15 Pepperoni Ball Pasta Salad Green Beans Oranges Milk	16 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	17
18 Garden Mix with Pasta Salad	19 Chili Mac Salad Corn Pineapple Milk	20 Chef Salad Waffle Fries Carrots Pears Milk	21 Penne Pasta Salad Roll Mixed Fruit Milk	22 Hot Dogs Potato Wedges Peas Strawberries Milk	23 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	24
25 Taco Salad	26 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Apple Slices Milk	27 Fajita Wrap Or PB&J Mini Tacos / Salsa Corn Fruit Cup Milk	28 Lasagna Salad Bread Fruit Milk	29 Turkey Sandwich Or PB & J Potato Smiles Carrots Banana Milk	30 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Menu Subject to Change



Lunch Menu November 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chef Salads	2 Grilled Chicken Salad Breadstick Corn Pears Milk	3 Breakfast Sandwich Tator Tots Sausage O.J. Milk	4 Rigatoni Salad Roll Fruit Cup Milk	5 Hot Italian Sub OR PB & J French Fries Green Beans Strawberries Milk	6 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	7
8 Cobb Salads	9 Chili Pepperoni Ball Salad Mixed Fruit Milk	10 Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Celery & Carrots Peach Cup Milk	11 Shells Salad Bread Apple Slices Milk	12 Chicken Soup Sliders Carrots Pineapple Milk	13 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	14
15 Romaine and Spinach with Cranberries Salads	16 BBQ Pork Sandwich OR PB & J Sweet Potatoes Broccoli Applesauce Milk	17 Hamburgers Potato Smiles Mixed Vegetables Pears Milk	18 Lasagna Salad Breadstick Peaches Milk	19 Turkey Mashed Potatoes Corn Fruit Milk	20 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	21
22 NO SALADS	23 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Fruit Milk	24 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	25 NO SCHOOL	26 	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 NO SCHOOL					

Menu Subject to Change

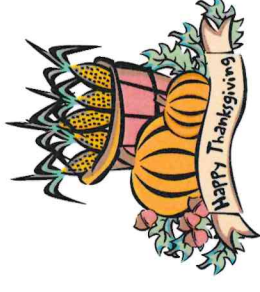
Activity Calendar October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 PK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:45pm—7:45pm	2 PK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences NO SCHOOL PK—6	3
4	5	6 Grades 9-12 Assembly	7 Senior FAFSA Meeting 6:00 pm	8	9 Picture Re-takes Elementary Core Value Rally	10
11	12 NO SCHOOL	13 PTO Meeting 8:00 am PSAT Testing NO SCHOOL for SENIORS	14	15 PK—3 Coffee Talk 8:00 am 11th Grade Service Day	16 11th grade Retreat End of Quarter 1 Last day for Uniform Shorts/Skorts Trunk or Treat	17
18 Project Grow	19	20	21	22 All School Liturgy 9:45am Uniform Dress Day <u>Homecoming Parade</u> 6:00 pm	23 Grades 6-12 Spirit Rally 1:30 pm	24 Homecoming Dance
Spirit Week						
25	26	27 Winter OHSAA Sports Meeting 6:00 pm	28 Grade 9 DOY Presentation	29	30 PK-6 Halloween Parade & Parties—1:00 pm <u>Gr. 7-12 Halloween</u> Dress Down \$5:00 Donation	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Activity Calendar November 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends 	2 All Souls Liturgy 9:45 am Uniform Dress Day	3	4 CCP Meeting 6:00 pm	5	6	7
8	9 Middle School Fall Sports Awards 6:00 pm	10 PTO Meeting 8:00 am HS Fall Sports Awards- 6:00 pm Mass of Remembrance- 7 pm	11 Double Day	12 Blood Drive 2:30 pm NHS Induction 6:00 pm	13 Senior Retreat Elementary Core Value Rally	14 Senior Retreat
15	16	17	18 Grades 4-6 Coffee Talk 8:00 am	19 Thanksgiving All School Liturgy 9:45 am Winter Sports Pictures—2:30 pm	20 Fall Play 7:00 pm Festival of Trees Dress Down Day	21
12 days of Christmas Begins						
22 Fall Play 3:00 pm	23 NO AFTER SCHOOL	24 NO AFTER SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break 	27 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	28 33rd Annual Festival of Trees 
12 days of Christmas						
29	30 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break					