



Parent Newsletter November/December 2025

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

Dear Saint John School Families,

Many of you know that I live in the Mentor area, and thus have a 40 minute (ok sometimes shorter) commute. I enjoy listening to music on the drive to and from school. Recently the song "Gentle Hearts & Dear People" came up (you can guess I don't listen to many rock stations). I think this was a Bing Crosby song. The chorus has the line, "love those dear hearts and gentle people who live in my hometown. Because those dear hearts and gentle people will never ever let you down."

As I listened to those words, I thought of our Herald family. At Saint John School, every day brings new reasons to be grateful — for our students who learn and lead with joy, for teachers who light the way with faith, and for families like yours whose support sustains all we do. You are the "dear people" who live in our hometown — no matter what zip code we call home.

In the coming days, we will be launching the 2026 Herald Double Day. Through the **Herald Fund**, we honor today with gratitude. Each gift strengthens the daily life of our school — from classroom innovation and spiritual formation, to athletics, the arts and every experience that helps our students grow into the young men and women God calls them to be together. We **inspire tomorrow with hope**. Your generosity ensures that future Heralds will inherit the same strong foundation of faith, scholarship, and service that defines Saint John School.

This year, we invite you to make your Herald Fund gift on **Herald Double Day — Wednesday, November 12**. On that day, every contribution will be **matched dollar for dollar**, doubling your impact and multiplying the hope we share for our students' future.

Let's honor all that Saint John means to our families and build a tomorrow filled with promise. Thank you for standing with us — today, tomorrow, and always — in gratitude and hope.

Focused Minds; Lead with Purpose.

November News

Mass of Remembrance

We will come together to pray for our loved ones who have died in the last year by celebrating Mass on Monday, November 3 at 7:00 pm in our chapel. We have sent invitations to those families we know who have experienced a death. However, we don't always have all information. The Mass is open to all members of the Herald community, so please feel free to share this information.

PTO Meeting

The next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00 pm.

Coffee Talk

We will have our second coffee talk on Wednesday, November 5 at 7:45 am. This session will focus on parents of students in grades 5-8. These are open discussions for areas that parents would like to discuss. No RSVP needed.

Lottery Dress Down Day

Dress down for lottery is Friday, November 14.

Senior Retreat

The class of 2026 will be having their retreat on Friday & Saturday, November 14 & 15. Please keep them in your prayers as they strengthen their faith journey.

National Honor Society Induction

The newest members of the NHS will be inducted on Thursday, November 20 at 6:00 pm. The students chosen for this are chosen based on qualities of scholarship, character, service and leadership.

All School Liturgy

We will be having a Mass of Remembrance and Gratitude on Friday, November 21, at 9:45 am. All are welcome to join us. **This is a dress uniform day.**

Office Hours

The office will be closed on Wednesday, November 26 through Friday, November 28.

Shadowing

Shadowing is available on Thursday, November 13 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.

Orientation/Visitation - Current 10th Grade Students

10th Grade students who are interested in ATECH may attend an orientation of the technical and career programs in a small group setting on **Tuesday, November 18th**. If a sophomore student is interested in attending ATECH in his/her junior or senior year, he/she must visit the program of interest to him/her before applying. ATECH is offering a couple of ways in which an interested student can visit or become familiar with each program.

*Individual Visits for students and parents/guardians to see programs on Fridays can be done through ATECH by calling 440-567-6015 ext. 1115.

Festival of Trees

Twelve Days of Christmas

www.bidpal.net/trees25 is the place to be for prize-filled fun from November 15 – 29, 2025 for Saint John School's *Twelve 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.

Tickets On-Sale!

Reserve your tickets for the 32nd Annual Festival of Trees at Saint John School at www.bidpal.net/trees25 and kick-off the holiday season with your school family! Scheduled for Saturday, November 29th 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.

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 29, 2025! Please contact Kristen Kitchen with your interest at kkitchen@sjheralds.org or 440-997-5531 x236.

Dress Down Day for Festival of Trees

There could be another Dress Down Day in your child's future! If you participate in the Twelve Days of Christmas or Festival of Trees (as a volunteer or cookie baker or donor of \$25+ at the online or in-person events), your family will receive a Dress Down Day in December to celebrate. Thank you for your support of this Saint John School tradition!

Guidance News

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 2026-2027 school year. The meeting will be held on November 5 at 6:00 pm.

Walsh University

Sara Bosell, Walsh Admissions Counselor will be in the Guidance office on Tuesday, November 4 at 8:00 am to speak with any Junior or Senior interest in Walsh University

Youngstown State University

Becca Campbell, Youngstown State University Admission Counselor will be in Mrs. Steele's College and Career Class on Wednesday, November 5 during 4th and 5th periods.

ACT Testing Dates

December 13, 2025

SAT Testing Dates

November 8, 2025 & December 6, 2025

December News

No School

As a way of thanking our students and families for their support of Festival of Trees and Herald Double Day, there will be **NO SCHOOL** on Monday, December 1.

PTO Meeting

The PTO will meet Tuesday, December 9 at 8:00 am.

Reconciliation

Students will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday, December 4 for grades 7-12 and Thursday, December 11 for grades 3-6.

All School Liturgy

We will celebrate the Feast of Mary of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 8 at 9:45 am. This feast day of Mary is the patronal feast day of the United States. We will pray in a special way that under the guidance of Mary, our country will be a beacon of hope and peace. All are welcome to join us.

This is a dress uniform day.

Santa Shoppe

The Santa Shoppe will be Monday-Friday, December 8-12 to allow students to have an opportunity to enjoy purchasing gifts for family and friends. PTO needs volunteers during the day to help students shop. There will be a sign-up form in the enews. Please consider arranging your schedule to assist. This is also an opportunity for grandparents to help!

Lottery Dress Down

Dress down for lottery is Friday, December 12.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 13, 10:00-12:00 at Saint John School. This event is always sold out, and due to our increased enrollment, it will again be reserved for enrolled Saint John students in grades PK-3, please. Online registration and payment are required to reserve your spot. A sign up link will be sent to all PK-3 families. If you have questions, or would like to volunteer, contact Mr. Corlew at 440.997.5531 X 226 or kcorlew@sjheralds.org

Semester Exams

Students in grades 7-12 will have semester exams on Tuesday, December 16, Wednesday, December 17 and Thursday, December 18. Schedules will be listed and published in the upcoming enews. December 19 will be a make-up exam day.

Christmas Concerts

Grades PK-2 Christmas concert will be held at 10:30 am on Thursday, December 18. Students will be dismissed immediately after the program.

Grades 3-6 concert will be at 1:00 pm.

Classroom Christmas parties

Grades PK-6 students will enjoy Christmas parties at 1:30 pm on Friday, December 19. Homeroom parents will let parents know how they can help

After School Care

There will be no after school care on Thursday, December 18 and Friday, December 19. Afterschool will resume on January 4.

Holiday Office Hours

During our Christmas break, the office will be open on December 22, 29, 30 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Please look ahead for any needs you might have.

Guidance News

- Career Night will be held at ATECH on January 29th in the evening 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. Additional information can be found on the ATech website.
- For more information on upcoming events and opportunities see their website for more information: <https://www.atech.edu/>.

Athletic Mass

Saint John athletes and their families will be attending Mass together on Sunday, December 7 at 10:00 am at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Mt. Carmel Church. There will be a special blessing for the athletes. Please plan on attending.

Student of the Month/Leadership Breakfast

On Thursday, December 12th at 8:00 a.m., we will host our **Semester One Student Achievement Breakfast** for students and parents in the **Kanicki Cafeteria**. During this celebration, we will recognize students who have earned **Student of the Month Awards** for September, October, and November, as well as those involved in **Student Government** and our newly inducted **National Honor Society members**. Please watch your email for a **personal invitation** to this special event.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season!!!



Saint John School
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Join our LinkedIN:
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



Athletic News

Student-Athlete College Planning Session

The Guidance Department will host an information session on Tuesday, November 4 for students in grades 9-12 who are interested in information about requirements for pursuing about playing sports at the college level. There is a RSVP response form in the enews.

Reminder student service fees must be paid in full or on a payment plan in order for students to play a winter sport or participate in intramurals or any Saint John sponsored travel team.

Fall Awards

Awards for fall sports will be presented on Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00 pm for middle school and 7:00 pm for high school.

Winter Sport Pictures

Pictures for students involved in winter sports will be taken on Thursday, November 20 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:

SONS OF ITALY 1169



SONS OF ITALY 1169

As a way of sharing our blessings for Thanksgiving we would like to engage students and families in providing for those who are homeless in our community. The following are a list of suggestions for each class to bring in so the bags are appropriately packed. Certainly, no grade level is restricted to these items.

" Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Desmond Tutu

Grade PK -Pens, Pencils, Gallon zip lock bags
Grade 1- Deodorant, Facial wet wipes
Grade 2 - Shampoo, Combs
Grade 3 - Toothpaste, Toothbrush
Grade 4 - Granola bars, Trail mix, Peanut Butter crackers, Beef Jerky
Grade 5 - Hot cocoa, Tea bags, Instant coffee
Grade 6 - Socks, First aid items
Grade 7 - Hand warmers, Gloves
Grade 8 - Gum, Hard candy, Chocolates, Mints
Grade 9 - Hand sanitizers, Lip balm, Lotion
Grade 10 - Bottled water
Grade 11 - Juice boxes
Grade 12 - Instant soup, Oatmeal packets
Faculty staff - Quarters, Prepaid phone cards

We are hoping to be able to donate between 40-60 bags.

We also encourage families to donate a complete blessing bag either in memory of someone or in honor of someone.

There will be a form in the enews to indicate who the bag is in honor of/in memory of. Families may either bring in a complete blessing bag with items from the above list or may donate \$ 20 and we will purchase items to make up the bag.





SAINT JOHN SCHOOL PTO NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



THANK YOU

We hope you're enjoying the beautiful mums you purchased — and we sincerely thank you for your support! Thanks to your generosity, our annual Mum Flower Fundraiser raised \$5,579 for the Saint John School PTO. These funds help make so many special events possible for our students and families throughout the year. A special thank you to Ohio Heritage Farm for partnering with us and providing such stunning mums once again this season!

SURVEY

Please take a moment to log on to Facebook: The Herald's Parent Hub and complete our brief survey about the Mum Flower Sale — your feedback helps us improve our process each year!

HOLIDAY CLEAN-OUT

As you tidy up this fall and winter, please remember our donation drive coming this spring! Gather up those toys, clothing, and small household items you no longer need — **and turn them into cash** for Saint John School. **YOUR DONATIONS RAISED \$5000** last year!

If you're doing a clean-out early, contact us to see if we can accept donations ahead of time. Every box makes a difference!
Contact Mrs. Williams 440-344-0030

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 11: PTO Meeting 6pm
- November 26-30: Thanksgiving Break
- December 8-12: Santa Shoppe
- December 9: PTO Meeting 8am
- December 13: Breakfast with Santa
- December 19: Class Christmas Parties
- December 21- January 4: Christmas Vacation

SANTA SHOPPE

It's that time of year again to bring some holiday magic to our students with the Santa Shoppe! This is always such a fun and special event where children can enjoy shopping for friends and family. We're looking for volunteers to help make this week magical — from assisting students with their shopping to wrapping their thoughtful gifts. If you'd like to join in the fun, a sign up will be located on our Facebook Page: The Herald Hub.
The Santa Shoppe will take place December 8-12.

FOLLOW US

Facebook: Herald's Parent Hub
Facebook: Saint John School Ashtabula PTO
Email: sjpto@sjheralds.org



Lunch Menu

November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Cobb Salad	3 Hamburgers French Fries Baked Beans Applesauce Milk	4 Popcorn Chicken Mac & Cheese Cucumbers Mixed Fruit Milk	5 Penne Pasta Salad Roll Peaches Milk	6 Chicken Soup Slider Carrots Pineapple Milk	7 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	8
9 Chicken Cranberry Salad with Apple Cider Vinaigrette	10 Chicken Parmesan Salad Roll Diced Pears Milk	11 Chef Salad Waffle Fries Corn Banana Milk	12 Shells Salad Breadstick Apple Wedges Milk	13 Hot Italian Sub OR PB&J Sweet Potatoes Cole Slaw Fruit Cocktail Milk	14 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	15
16 Chef Salad	17 Pizzaburgers Celery & Carrots Pasta Salad Fruit Cup Milk	18 Hot Dog Potato Wedges Green Beans Peaches Milk	19 Lasagna Salad Roll Mandarin Oranges Milk	20 Turkey Mashed Potatoes Corn Applesauce Milk	21 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	22
23 No Salads	24 Orange Chicken Brown Rice Broccoli Pineapple Cookie Milk	25 Tacos Quesadilla Corn Pears Milk	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL 	28 NO SCHOOL	29
30						

Menu Subject to Change



Lunch Menu

December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Seasoned Chicken Salad	1 NO SCHOOL	2 Hamburgers Tator Tots Baked Beans Applesauce Milk	3 Rigatoni Salad Bread Fruit Milk	4 Turkey Sandwich OR PB&J French Fries Baby Carrots Banana Milk	5 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	6
7 Taco Salad	8 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Fruit Cocktail Milk	9 Creamed Chicken Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Fruit Cup Milk	10 Rotini Salad Breadstick Fruit Milk	11 Ham & Cheese Sweet Potatoes Cucumbers Pears Milk	12 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	13
14 No Salads	15 Pepperoni Ball/ Sauce Salad Corn Peaches Milk	16 Mac & cheese PB&J Broccoli Apple Wedges Milk	17 Shells Salad Roll Fruit Milk	18 Egg Patty Sausage Biscuit Potato O.J. Milk	19 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Merry Christmas

Menu Subject to Change



Activity Calendar November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends 	3 Class/Parish Mass 8:00 am—Chapel Mass of Remembrance 7:00 pm—Chapel	4 Student Athletic College Planning Session	5 Coffee Talk Grades 5-8 7:45 am College Credit Plus Meeting—6:00 pm	6	7 October Donation Festival of Trees Dress Down Day	8
9	10 Class/Parish Mass 8:00 am—Chapel	11 PTO Meeting 6:00 pm Athletic Awards Middle School - 6 pm High School—7 pm	12 Grade 5 Field Trip	13 Blood Drive 2:00 pm Shadow Day for Potential Students	14 Lottery Dress Down Senior Retreat	15 Festival of Trees 12 days of Christmas Online Begins Senior Retreat
16	17 Class/Parish Mass 8:00 am—Chapel	18 Grade 10 ATECH Visit	19	20 NHS Induction 6:00 pm Winter Sports Pictures— 2:30 pm	21 Thanksgiving Liturgy—9:45 am Dress Uniform Day	22 Media Day 10:00 am
23	24 Class/Parish Mass 8:00 am—Chapel	25	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	27 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break 	28 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	29 32nd Annual Festival of Trees 
30						

Calendar Subject to Change



Activity Calendar

December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NO SCHOOL	2	3	4 Grades 7-12 Reconciliation	5 November Donation Festival of Trees Dress Down Day	6
7 Athletic Mass 10:00 am Our Lady of Peace	8 All School Liturgy 9:45 am Dress Uniform Day Santa Shoppe	9 PTO Meeting 8:00 am	10 Grade 2 Field Trip	11 Grades 3-6 Reconciliation	12 Lottery Dress Down Day Student of the Month/ Leadership Breakfast → 8:00 am	13 Breakfast with Santa - 10:00 am 
14	15 Class/Parish Mass 8:00 am—Chapel	16 Exams Gr. 7-12	17 Exams Gr. 7-12	18 Exams Gr. 7-12 Christmas Concert Gr. PK-2- 10:30 am Gr. 3-6—1:00 pm No After School	19 End of Quarter 2 Make up Exams Christmas Parties PK-6 - 1:30 pm No After School	20
21	22	23	24 	25 	26	27
28	Christmas Break					
		30	31			

Calendar Subject to Change