



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy

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December 15, 2022

*Empowering students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.*

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Greetings SJRS Families, Faculty and Staff,

It has certainly been an interesting week. I have to say that the postponement of the **Christmas Concert and Pageant** was a tough one on Monday. I really did not want to have to do that. But with so many students out sick, I just did not feel good about moving forward with it. But I'm so happy that we have been able to reschedule it without too much trouble, and still be able to celebrate all together. I know that the students were looking forward to it as were all of us. It's a tradition that will continue!

I hope that the illnesses that are going around are easing up. In general, the absence numbers are going down a bit (although still quite high overall), so that seems to be a good sign. Please reach out to the faculty about any missed work for your children. As always, they are ready and willing to help!

Snow day tomorrow? Keep an eye out for my communication later today!

Finally, I wanted to share the Christmas Novena that I have been praying with the faculty each day over the few weeks or so in the morning before students arrive. This has been a special way for us to start our days together at this time of reflection.

### **Christmas Novena**

Hail and Blessed be the hour and the moment

At which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin at a stable at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold.

At that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, To hear my prayers and Grant my desires  
(mention request here)

Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother.

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith  
Principal

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### **THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**

The third candle of Advent symbolizes **Joy**. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even

before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls “Gaudete Sunday,” meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.



### **ZECHARIAH 9:9**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteousness and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday 12/16** – Middle School Christmas Dance – 6-8pm (Grades 6-8)

**Sunday 12/18** – Toys for Tots No Time Like the Present gift wrapping fundraiser – 11am-4pm

**Wed-Mon 12/21-1/2/23** – **Christmas Break – NO SCHOOL**

**Tuesday 1/3** – Return to school

**Wednesday 1/11** – Christmas Concert

**[CLICK HERE](#) for the complete updated 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR**



### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

We're thrilled to be able to have our Christmas Concert and Pageant this year at The Colonial Theatre after several years away!

**NEW DATE: Wednesday, January 11**

**The Colonial Theatre, 95 Main Street, Keene**

**Doors open/students must arrive: 6:00pm.** All students should be dressed up, in their "Sunday best" for the concert (except for the 4th grade who will be in their costumes for the pageant).

**Show starts: 6:30pm**

**Tickets: \$10 each.**

All seats are general admission (seats are on a first come, first served basis when you arrive)

at the theatre). There is no limit on the number of tickets that you may purchase, but please be respectful and only purchase if you know for certain that the tickets will be used. All SJRS students in grades PK-8 will be performing in the show, so students DO NOT need a ticket.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through The Colonial. You may purchase tickets in person at the theatre box office (open Mon-Fri 12-6). You may also purchase tickets by calling The Colonial box office (603-352-2033) or online here:

<https://tickets.thecolonial.org/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/tmEvent1509.html>



Our hallways are filled with the Christmas spirit!





### **HOT CHOCOLATE!**

The SJRS Student Council will be selling hot chocolate on Thursdays through 1/26. The cost is \$1.00 and includes hot chocolate, whipped topping and a candy cane!



Tons of fun was had by all last Friday at the Christmas movie night! THANK YOU to Student Council for organizing the evening!





### **SJRS Alpine Club Message from Club Coordinator, Wendy Petschik**

The SJRS/OLMA Alpine Club is gearing up for a great season of skiing and riding with the Voyager Program at Crotched Mountain. The club is open to all SJRS and OLMA students ages 5-18 and there are no capacity limits so we can accommodate anyone who would like to join us! Below is the current information that has been provided by Crotched about the program. I am still working out the details/payment amount of those students who would like to join us but do not need lessons or rentals, so stay tuned for that information. I would like to get a contact list together of any interested students so please use the Google Doc link below to provide your information so I can create a master email list. If you have a season's pass and do not want lessons, there is no need to sign up through Crotched Mountain, but you will still be part of our club so please sign up on the Google Doc below so I can include you in our club communications.

I am so excited for snow and the slope side fun to begin!! If you have any questions, please email Wendy Petschik ([wpetschik@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:wpetschik@stjosephkeene.org)).

#### **Google Doc link for Alpine Club email list:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WzkCDLG5aMauDnBnlB7CEJn7dTQyL3B6-4fpsGyxm4Q/edit?usp=sharing>

#### **Crotched Mountain Voyager Program details Program**

- 5 weeks of lessons plus 2 additional weeks to come out and ski/ride. Again this year, Voyager is now a 7-week program with lessons offered the first 5 of the 7 weeks. Week 6 is for makeup lessons.
- 2 products: Lift/Lesson/Rental (\$289) OR Lesson/Rental (\$140)

#### **Schedule**

- Fridays
- Lesson start time: 5 pm
- Starting week of 1/13/22
- Ending week of 2/24/23
- One make-up day, if needed, on your regular day/time, during week 6 of the program (2/17/23)

#### **How to Sign Up**

To help streamline the distribution of information, I have also provided a detailed document with all the information repeated from above and how to sign up for the Crotched program which can be found by clicking the link below.

Link to detailed information with sign up instructions:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fdM60Ju-PVinPz\\_6FeZuowYbXmK2mdF-vx1DDCmBdlw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fdM60Ju-PVinPz_6FeZuowYbXmK2mdF-vx1DDCmBdlw/edit?usp=sharing)



Miss Johnson's 2nd grade has been gathering daily for celebration at their Advent table. This week is the Light of the Beasts. Each day, they sing and read together about Mary and Joseph's journey, and then open class gifts. All this week the gifts are animals that they are adding to their beautiful table.

TOYS FOR TOTS FUNDRAISER



# No Time Like The Present

**Bring your holiday presents to be wrapped by volunteers. Proceeds will go to the toys for tots foundation.**

**Minimum donation of \$2.50 per package**

**Sunday December 18th, 11am-4pm**

**Fundraiser will be held in the SJRS gym**

**amazon**smile



**Don't forget to shop for SJRS through AmazonSmile!**

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. For details go to: [https://smile.amazon.com/charity/smile/about?ref\\_=smi\\_se\\_dshb\\_aas\\_saas](https://smile.amazon.com/charity/smile/about?ref_=smi_se_dshb_aas_saas)



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