

SJB School Parent Newsletter 9.7.18

Dear SJB Families,

The 7th grade class had an amazing experience this week. They engaged in problem-solving and team building in a natural setting at Camp Duncan. The students used critical thinking skills along with compassion and kindness. They are truly stepping into leadership at our school.

We are currently engaged in ascertaining the beginning of the year skills and knowledge levels of our students. We look at this and other data in order to plan instruction and supports for the students.

We are on track with the process of installing our playground. The Archdiocese is completing the procedures that ensure safety and compliance with regulations. I will keep you posted regarding our progress!!

We are preparing for our Gala 25. Gala is an important funding opportunity for our school. Your Gala donations help pay for specific items (through Pounce) and help continue the everyday operations of our school that ensure that your child receives a top-notch education. Please reach out to the Gala committee to find out how you can volunteer for this event. Please attend the event on November 3!

Save the date: We are looking forward to Grandparents' Day on September 27. We will begin the event with mass at 8:30, followed by a reception in the Parish Ministry Center. Details will be coming soon!

Blessings,
Dr. Maloney
Principal

Dear Parishioners,

When we pause for a moment, we recognize that we are blessed. God has been good to us, and we feel a sense a satisfaction with how things are going for us. But when we take a little more time we often recognize that there is a deep longing for a fuller union with God. In our silence, too, we often recognize a darkness or divisiveness deep within us that often keeps us from connecting with Him.

This darkness is more than the regret of being impatient with our spouse, or being jealous, or feeling a slight at work. While these offenses may or may not point to something deeper, we can often place too much focus on them because more often than not they are just part of the human condition.

The darkness that I speak of is those deep down things -- words and actions -- we learned as a child that keep us from really “knowing, loving and serving God.” Our work, our family, and sometimes a sickness, either with a loved one or with ourselves, preoccupies our lives and thus keeps us from seeking Him. Some of us also wait too long, until our deathbed, to seek Him. Unfortunately at that moment we are often so afraid or we're so sick we don't have the courage or plain old strength to enter fully into the mystery.

In John's Gospel, we are invited to abide in the Lord. To rest in him. In the human face of Jesus, we find the necessary “spirit” to relax and enjoy God. In the face of Jesus, we connect to a God who is merciful and forgiving. In his love, we are not taken out of the world but rather we are able face our demons and the ordinary struggles of human living, something that Jesus had to do, too. In this union we become at peace, we find union with the best part of ourselves, and we find the strength and fortitude to bring others together so that they be one with him.

Pope Francis reminds us: “God is our ally, faith in Him is our strength and prayer is the expression of this faith. Therefore Jesus assures us of the victory, but at the end He asks: ‘when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?’” (Lk 18:8). If faith is snuffed out, prayer is snuffed out, and we walk in the dark. We become lost on the path of life.

Therefore, let us learn from the widow of the Gospel to pray always without growing weary. Pray always, but not in order to convince the Lord by dint of words! He knows our needs better than we do! Indeed, persevering prayer is the expression of faith in a God who calls us “to fight with him every day and at every moment in order to conquer evil with good.” (Pope Francis, Angelis, October, 2013)

Thank you all for your witness of faith and love. You're good people who work hard to provide for family and friends. Thank you for willingly sacrificing for the good of the stranger.

Peace,
Father Mike Meany
Pastor

To view this week's parish bulletin, please click here: <http://www.sjbrebeuf.org/bulletins>

Events:

Sunday, 9/9 -- Scout Mass, 9 am in church

Thursday 9/13 -- Pizza Day, forms due on Tuesday 9/11!!; All School Mass, 8:30 am

Friday, 9/21 -- No School, Professional Development Day

Sunday, 9/23 -- SJB School Family Mass, 9 am in church, followed by hospitality in Room C of PMC hosted by the Athletic Board. All students and parents are encouraged to attend.

Monday, 9/24 -- Catholic High School Fair, all 6th-8th grade parents and students encouraged to attend, Room A of PMC, 7-8 pm

Tuesday, 9/25 -- Turn in Uncle Pete's Ministry Sack Dinners at morning drop-off

Wednesday, 9/26 -- Regina Dominican High School Shadow Day for 8th grade girls

Thursday, 9/27 -- Grandparents' Day (see information below); All School Mass, 8:30 am

Monday, 10/1 -- School Advisory Board Meeting, 7 pm

Wednesday, 10/3 -- P/SA General Meeting, 7 pm

Thursday, 10/4 -- All School Mass, 8:30 am; Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3:30-6:30 pm

Friday, 10/5 -- Spirit Wear Day; 12 pm dismissal, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1-4 pm

Save the Date: SJB Trunk-or-Treat, Saturday, October 13 -- Watch for details soon!

Announcements

Grandparents Day is Coming! -- The event will begin at 8:30 am mass, followed by a special reception on the Parish Ministry Center. Look for information coming home soon!

Gala -- Would your employer, or perhaps a business you love, like to donate to Gala? Letters to local businesses are hot off the press, and we would love to give you one.

Also, Gala volunteers are still needed. If interested, please contact Alison Selivon at designsbyalison@yahoo.com.

Choir has begun, and you can still sign up! Please see the updated information on the website. This year there is a new choir for Polish-speaking children as well! Forms are available from Mrs. Fair, the choir director. <http://www.sjbschool.org/music>

Hospitality after this Weekend's Masses, and Wrapped In God's Love Fleece Blanket Project -- The St. John Brebeuf Parish Council is launching the Wrapped in God's Love Fleece Blanket project. This will be a parish-wide project. The hope is that all parishioners from all ministries (including the school) will participate. The goal is to provide hope and kindness to many parishioners who are alone, homebound, grieving the loss of a loved one, dealing with illness, or struggling with life's difficulties by giving them a homemade Wrapped in God's Love fleece blanket. The blankets are easy to make and can be a fun family project. Please look for information in upcoming parish bulletins, as well as announcements at all masses and at the hospitality tents the weekend of September 8-9 to learn more.

From SJB Youth Ministry – ATTENTION 7th AND 8th GRADERS:

- 1) WELCOME BACK from SJB Youth Ministry! We wish all of our school families an exciting and productive school year!
- 2) SJB YOUTH MINISTRY is changing leadership. Mrs. Perez retired at the end of August. There will be a transition team, and Mrs. Perez will be involved with a smooth transition. Please contact our Parish Office at 847-966-8145 if you have any questions.

Questions? Contact our Parish Office at 847-966-8145.