



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts

St. John Fisher School – *Merry Christmas!*

December 18, 2020

Dear SJF Families,

We cannot believe that we are one short week away from Christmas! This year has truly been one for the books. What has gotten us all through this year has been the way in which we have banded together to overcome the countless challenges that have been thrown our way: riots, senseless violence, a political divisive society, a tumultuous election year and a world-wide pandemic to name a few. Thank you for your dedication to our school community. Your children are our greatest blessings and we are thankful for them each and every day. As I have communicated all along, we are in awe of the numerous ways in which our kids weather the storm and continue to arrive each day eager to learn with smiling faces. They are truly the lights of our St. John Fisher world and bring such JOY to our lives!

Despite the many restrictions we face each day, our students and staff have still managed to bring a sense of normalcy, infusing the Christmas spirit into our lives. Our classrooms and hallways have been transformed into holiday landscapes and Christmas carols echo the halls as classes came together to creatively decorate their classroom door for our traditional door decorating contest. Though our Christmas plays look different this year, our kindergarten teachers and aids miraculously found a way to still perform our beloved First Christmas pageants (the links are below) and Dr. Chermak and the second-grade students and faculty are working tirelessly to complete their rendition as well which would normally be presented at our Christmas Eve Mass (those performances will be shared virtually next week). Our amazing families led by our dedicated Family School Association have also gone above and beyond with the 12 Days of Christmas celebration for our teachers and staff along with our COVID-friendly Santa visits. Everyone has done their part to contribute to the JOY we are all feeling as we patiently await Christmas and our much-needed break.

May you and your loved ones enjoy all of the blessings this holiday season brings. Here's to great health and an abundance of JOY in 2021. Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher School. We are so very grateful for each of you!

Merry Christmas!

-Mrs. Maura Nash



joy

Make your life about joy. Celebrate your big and little wins. Grow every day. Enjoy the first sip of your morning coffee, and the second and third and fourth. Find something to smile about on your commute. Give hugs often, compliment others whenever you can. Get inspired. Nourish yourself. Go outside and spend time in nature. Take chances. Make the art. Watch the sunrise. Climb the mountain. Because life is just too short and fragile to not live a life of chasing joy.

- *Nikki Banas*

Important Announcements

- Please enjoy the **Kindergarten Rendition of the First Christmas**: [Mrs. Fanjoy's Class](#), [Mrs. Rech/Ms. Surin's Class](#) & [Mrs. Caffrey's Class](#).
- **FSA Santa Visit Pictures** will be sent home today. Please be on the look-out for your family's keepsake in your child's backpack.
- The **SJF Women's Club** is still holding registration for this year; this year's fee has been waived. If you weren't able to return your registration card to your block captain, please add your name to [this list](#). Reach out to the **Women's Club** if you have any questions, SJFWomensClub@gmail.com.
- **THANK YOU!** SJF's amazing community of parishioners, school families, alumni, and friends bought over 1000 of our Holiday Grand Raffle tickets! We are SO grateful for your support of this major fundraising event which replaced our Annual Fisherfest Raffle this year.
 - Congratulations to the raffle winners! \$25,000.00 - Dan and Margie Collins - \$5,000.00 - Carissa Colander - \$2,000.00 - Marie Liston - Seller's Prize - \$1,000.00 - Amy O'Connor
- The **Chicago Public Library** is offering free homework help. Please see the below flyer for more information. If you would like to still register your child for a library card, please reach out to our librarian, Mrs. Keller, for assistance, kkeller@sjschool.net. Happy Reading!
- SJF will pivot to **remote learning** after Christmas Break from January 6th – January 15th with a return to in-person learning on Tuesday, January 19th. Stay tuned for specific guidance and expectations from your child's teacher(s) in the coming days.

Important Dates

Monday, December 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-Day of School
Tuesday, December 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-Day of School, 11:30 Dismissal Christmas Break Begins!
Wednesday, December 23 rd – Tuesday, January 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Break!
Wednesday, January 6 th – Friday, January 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote Learning
Monday, January 18 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday, January 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to In-Person Learning

COVID Reminders

- Our **most frequently asked question** is when should I keep my child home from school?
 - **If your child or ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD HAS 1 or more COVID symptoms, your child (and siblings) should remain at home.**
 - **If your child or ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD has a pending COVID lab test (even if the rapid is negative).**
- Thank you so much for your partnership and caution. Our school has successfully remained open for in-person learning because of you!

Parish News

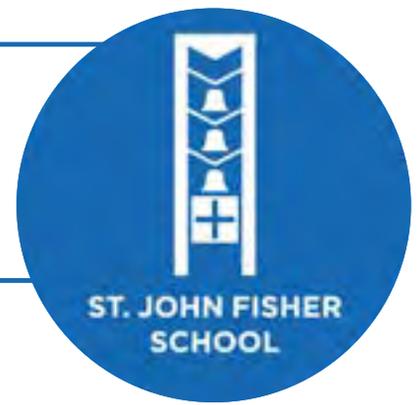
- **Pro Labore Dei: THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** Thanks to the wonderful SJF community, the October coat drive, the November Thanksgiving meal collection, and the December gift drive were huge successes! **More than 200 gifts were donated** by SJF parishioners PLUS \$1500 worth of gifts donated by a parishioner and her coworkers at Eisenhower High School.
- PLD continues to serve 125 - 200 families each week in the Robbins, Blue Island, and Posen communities. **We are so grateful** for your ongoing support! Please drop off monetary donations or non-perishable food items at the church parking from 10:30-11 am **EVERY Saturday morning**, or anytime at the rectory. Or call us and we'll pick up from you. Your generous donations will warm the hearts of our many PLD families.
- Questions? Contact Pam O'Mara (773) 612-0281. Thank you and God Bless!
- Don't forget to join us for mass! St. John Fisher is open for **Mass** at **4 PM on Saturdays, 8 AM and 11 AM on Sundays, and 8:15 AM every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday.**
- **Confession** is also available every **Saturday 3 PM - 3:45 PM**. If you would like to sign up in advance for weekend Masses, you may call the rectory, 773-445-6565 or sign up online [here](#). While you are not required to sign up in advance, it helps us ensure enough space for all.



MANNA News

- "Thank you to all who have participated in Manna purchases, especially in the recent weeks where we saw even stronger sales! This directly helps St. John Fisher School. If signing up is on your Christmas break "to-do" list or one of your 2021 goals, check out the information sheet below to help guide you. We have many new users that are pleasantly surprised with how easy it is to use the Raise Right App for everyday shopping. Also, please note that there will be no Manna hours on Christmas Eve/Day and New Year's Eve/Day."
- **MANNA TESTIMONIAL:** "In previous years, my family would buy manna once a year, around the holidays. After talking to another Fisher family on the perks of participating in the manna program, this year we have decided to make a concerted effort to get Manna on a regular basis. Yes, we originally made the effort because of the fundraising fee. But, once we saw how easy it was, we saw how it was a win for everyone. The school made money, and we have money going towards our tuition. We mainly buy gift cards for groceries, gas and take-out, but we have used it for birthday gifts as well. We never thought to use on airfare or hotels, but that too has helped us meet our fundraising goal already. Manna now has become a habit and using the raise right app makes getting e-gift cards or sending to family and friends that much easier."

MANNA



Why Participate?

Manna is our #1 School Fundraiser! It is essential to help with operating costs and maintain incremental, necessary tuition increases. The school fundraising requirement per family is to raise \$300 FOR THE SCHOOL through manna sales. **BONUS**, meeting this requirement would result in about a \$450 tuition credit for you each year!

How it works:

1

You buy gift certificates and shop with them. Hundreds of retail establishments available.

2

The retailer gives a percentage of the card value to SJF (2-14%).

3

You get 60% of the retailer rebate credited to your tuition at SJF, high school or college.

4

SJF gets 40% of the retailer rebate towards meeting operational costs.

How to get started:

In-person

1. Complete [Manna Program Sign Up Sheet](#) and submit during Manna hours (below).
2. Print out order form to purchase local gift certificates. [Manna Form](#)
3. Visit the convent (102nd and Fairfield)
Monday 8-9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6-7:30 p.m.
Thursdays 8-9:30 a.m.
Friday on school days only 2-3 p.m.
Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Sunday 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Online (via website OR App)

1. Before you begin, please email sjfmanna@gmail.com for SJF Enrollment Number! This is key for Manna to track users. They respond quickly!
2. Register on www.shopwithscrip.com to use the website version AND/OR download the [RaiseRight](#) by Shopwithscrip App.
3. Shop! When you're ready to check out, sign up for secure online payments by linking a bank account (through Prestopay), adding a credit card, or both. (You may use a check for an in-person physical gift card pickup). Submit order by 10a.m. Sunday to pick-up starting Wednesday.
4. Use your cards! eGift cards are delivered to your Wallet (on website and/or App) within minutes. Physical gift cards are mailed to your coordinator (the convent!) and these can be reloadable (find out more [here](#)). Use both types in-store and online!



[Questions/Need More Information?](#)

[Tips & Tricks](#)



FALCON OF THE WEEK

Colin Carey, Pre-School



SJF's "Falcon of the Week" is 4 year-old pre-school student Colin Carey.

Our school theme is "Fly Like a Falcon." At school, we are intentionally discussing *what it means to be a falcon*. Falcons soar above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. We are encouraging our school community to "soar above" things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves. We are on a school-wide crusade to "Fly Like a Falcon," lifting one another up, celebrating the positive interactions and kind behavior that our students and staff demonstrate each and every day.

This week in gym class, one of Colin's classmates fell down while running after a ball. Colin was quick to run to her aide and help her up. Colin's teachers overwhelmingly reported that this is not out of the ordinary as Colin consistently goes out of his way to help his friends. Colin works really hard to do his best each day and his class and our school is better off because of him.

Colin's kindness and laughter is contagious and he makes life fun! A huge thanks to Colin for reminding us how a simple gesture can brighten someone's day and how easy it is to choose kind and be a friend. Keep flying like a Falcon, Colin. You're making our world a better place!

2020 VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS DOOR DECORATING CONTEST



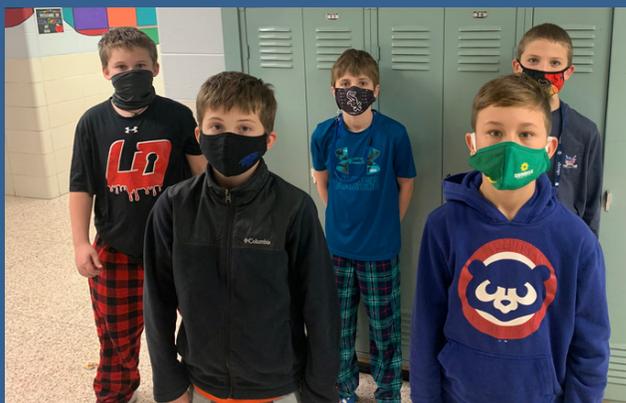
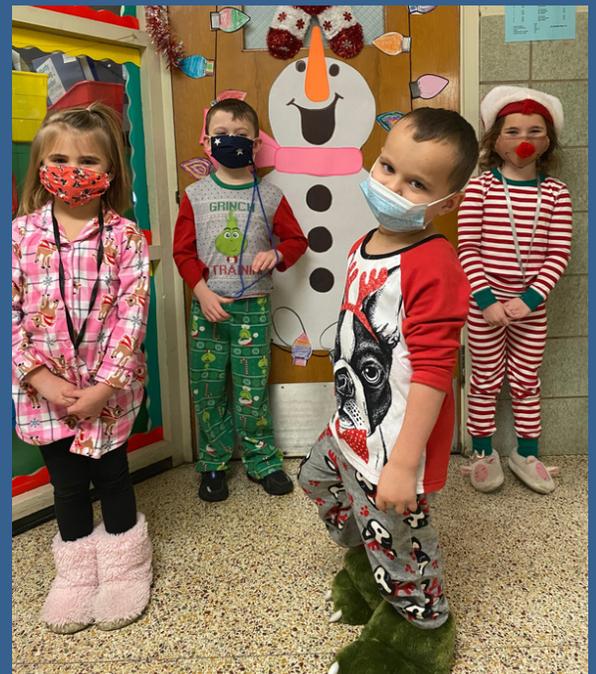


**Thank you
to all the
participants!**





POLAR
EXPRESS
PAJAMA
DAY



HOMESCHOOL HELP: VIRTUAL TEACHER IN THE LIBRARY

Kids and Parents/caregivers, try the new
Homework Help: Virtual Teacher in the Library program!

- Free online support from a certified teacher
- Take quick study breaks by trying fun activities with a librarian and other kids
- Available in English and Spanish

Find out more
including how to register at
chipublic.org/HomeworkHelp



**CHICAGO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**





GIVE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Bring Light to Dark Times

Did you know that the **Invest in Kids Act** helps children from low-income households in Illinois access scholarships that cover up to 100 percent of a Catholic school's tuition? Thousands of students are gaining knowledge and building on their faith in Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools thanks to this program. Your support during these challenging times would help educate the next generation in Catholic students while building on a brighter future for all.

What is a tax credit scholarship?

Tax Credit Scholarships cover up to 100 percent of tuition and fees for the 2021/22 school year. Students from low-income households can qualify for tax credit scholarships if their family income is less than \$72,900. More than 9,000 students qualified for a scholarship last year and 6,300 were left waiting without one.

Cut tax liability

Individuals and corporations may receive a credit for their Illinois state taxes equal to 75 percent of donation.

Triple your impact

Donate to a school or all archdiocese schools between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, 2021, and, thanks to a few generous donors, your donation will be matched and maximized threefold! Limitations apply.

HOW IT WORKS

We use \$10K in this example, but any amount is needed.

DONATE \$10,000

After following the step-by-step guide, a taxpayer can donate \$10,000 to Empower Illinois, the Scholarship Granting Organization working with the Archdiocese. Designate the archdiocese's Catholic schools or a specific group of schools as beneficiary.

TAX REWARD CAN EQUAL \$7,500

You are eligible to claim a \$7,500 tax credit on your state taxes -75 percent of your gift! This has the potential to eliminate your 2020 tax liability.

MATCHING ANGELS: Your \$10,000 gift becomes \$30,000 in student scholarships

Each dollar you give between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, 2021, will be matched 2 for 1 by a handful of generous donors, tripling the scholarship amount and making a bigger impact on students who need your help. Limitations apply.

Illuminate a pathway to success for our children

Back to school has taken on new meaning in 2020, as many families, their students and their teachers have struggled to bring certainty into a young person's life during a time fraught with uncertainty as a global pandemic has left so many people struggling.



Families hit hardest by the COVID-19 economy have struggled to continue their children's Catholic education and put food on the table. Your donation to the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program enables those children to receive quality, faith-based education in a loving and supportive environment.

Catholic schools have long set the standard for faith, excellence in education and service to society. They have provided spiritual growth and instruction to students, in order for them to rise up from economic struggles and, in turn, contribute back to our community. Your donation is an investment that keeps our schools open and guarantees that our future generations will be afforded a quality Catholic education.

Invest in kids now: 3 easy steps

1 REGISTER

This [helpful guide from Empower Illinois](#) will walk you through the process of obtaining a donor account. You will need the primary taxpayer's SSN and one of the following: IL Driver's License #, IL State ID #, or Adjusted Gross Income from the prior year's return.

2 RESERVE

Reserve your tax credit with the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). Refer to this list of [eligible schools](#) to determine where your school of choice is located and designate Empower Illinois as your Scholarship Granting Organization. You will receive your Contribution Authorization Certificate (CAC) via email. Once you have your CAC, you are ready to donate.

3 DONATE

Once you receive confirmation of your tax credit and your CAC from IDOR, you have up to 60 days to donate to Empower Illinois. For more help, refer to page 7 of this [step-by-step guide](#).

THANK YOU!

These three simple steps make a difference in a child's life and will have a long-lasting, positive impact on our community because you have invested in Catholic education. Do not delay. Mark your calendar! This opportunity will not last.

For more information please contact the TCS hotline at **312.534.2617** or tcs@archchicago.org, or visit archchicago.org/tcs.

Amazon Shoppers,

Please join us at AmazonSmile when completing your shopping orders. AmazonSmile can be used on both regular orders and Amazon Fresh orders. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to St. John Fisher. Using AmazonSmile is at no cost to you! Instead of using the regular Amazon app or webpage, you will open up AmazonSmile instead 😊 Thank you for your support!

There are 3 EASY ways to remember Amazon Smile when making your purchase on Amazon.

1. To Shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You can add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to remember.

2.

Make it easier to return to smile.amazon.com by adding a shortcut to your phone's home screen



1. Tap the share icon at the bottom of this window.



2. Tap **Add to Home Screen**, and then tap **Add**.



3. Tap the new icon on your home screen to return at any time to smile.amazon.com.

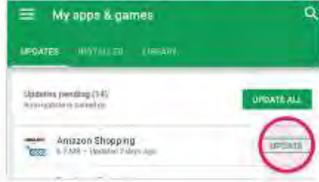
3.

AmazonSmile is now in the Amazon Shopping App

You can now support your favorite charity when you shop using the Amazon Shopping App on your Android device. See below for instructions to turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping App.

Follow the steps attached below to add AmazonSmile in your Amazon Shopping App. This feature is coming very soon for iOS (Apple), stay tuned!

1 Make sure you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App



1. Open the Google Play Store
2. Tap the menu (≡)
3. Tap on My apps & games
4. Tap the Updates tab
5. Update the Amazon Shopping App

2 Open the Amazon Shopping App



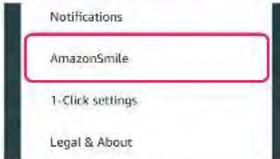
3 Tap in the main menu in the Amazon App



4 Tap Settings



5 Tap AmazonSmile



6 Follow the instructions on the screen to turn on AmazonSmile



7 All set! Tap the Start shopping button and support charity



Coming soon on iOS. Stay tuned!