



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.

St. John Fisher School

October 25, 2019

Dear SJF Families,

The anticipation and excitement of Halloween is upon us. Our little falcons have been preparing for next week by reading Halloween themed stories, learning and singing Halloween themed songs and creating fabulous art work that is displayed so proudly throughout our halls. We welcome you to participate in our pumpkin decorating contest. See the below flyer if you are interested. Our SOAR students have exciting events and activities planned for Halloween as well. Thank you so much to our room parents who have helped organize these events in order to make our learning environment so fun!

Below you can see some exciting events and activities that have recently taken place in school including our First Communion Enrollment Mass, our All-School Mass hosted by our 7th graders, spooktacular art projects created by our primary students and our 1st & 6th grade STEM project partners working hard together in Mrs. O'Shea's Science Class.

As you know, our School Advisory Board in partnership with the SJF community has been working on a strategic plan for our school and parish. For the past nine months, the Strategic Planning Committee has been gathering data and feedback from all of our parish organizations, community members, parents, and alumni. This upcoming week, we are completing our final round of the Desserts and Discussion Round Table Talks with an essential group: the faculty and staff. This event is also hosted by our SAB. The purpose of these discussions is to learn about our strengths and understand our weaknesses as a school community in order to make a list of priorities and needs for the overall health and progression of St. John Fisher. The committee's focal points revolve around: academic advancement and curriculum, school mission and culture, financial health and fundraising, space planning and maintenance and marketing and communications. This final component of internal staff and faculty feedback will be incredibly meaningful and helpful to drive our mission forward. The unveiling of our findings will take place during our Catholic School's Week the last week of January. Thank you so much for your contribution to this initiative as it would not exist without your support.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher.

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash



Important Announcements

- **TRUNK OR TREAT UPDATE:** Unfortunately, *due to the low numbers we had to cancel this event.* We are extremely grateful for all the support and generosity from the families who offered to help with the Trunk or Treat. We understand this is a busy time of year for our families and we know many families and kids were looking forward to this event. We hope to gather more suggestions on how we can make this event a success for next year. *Stay tuned for an invitation to the fall FSA Meeting (date TBA) in order to hear feedback, form committees and work towards building a strong family/school connection.*
- **SJF's Annual Halloween Pumpkin Contest:** Pumpkins must be turned in to Kane Hall on Tuesday, October 29th, from 7:30-7:50. Thanks for participating!
- **REMINDER! Wednesday, October 30th, is a 1:45, early dismissal** for a Faculty In-service. Extended day is available to serve your family if needed. Contact the main office if you have questions: 773.445.4737.
- **Homework Club & Academic Eligibility Study Hall & HSPT Class are cancelled next Wednesday** due to our EARLY DISMISSAL and FACULTY In-Service. Thank you for your flexibility.
- **Halloween is Thursday** and is a *full day of school.* Students in grades pre-k – 4th can dress in costumes and students in grades 5-8 can be out of uniform. It is sure to be a **Spooktacular** day!
- **Thank you** to the 7th grade families for hosting our delicious **Teacher Breakfast** this past Thursday. **Your generosity is much appreciated** and it is a wonderful way to start the day.
- *We invite and welcome your feedback.* If you have a question regarding your child's education, **please reach out directly to your son or daughter's teacher.** If you need further support, contact Mrs. Larmon, clarmon@sjfschool.net, Mrs. Carey, ncarey@sjfschool.net, or Mrs. Nash mnash@sjfschool.net. *We are so happy and grateful to partner with you in order to best serve your children!*
- **GOT MILK?** Our milk only option is now available for you to order for the entire year.
- **Reminder - please help keep our building safe!** All visitors, parents and guardians must enter the main doors off of 102nd and Washtenaw and sign in at the office. Thank you!
- **Don't forget to check your student's teacher blog @ www.sjfschool.net** for the latest and greatest information from your child's class. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns!
- **Forgotten student items:** homework and lunches – please partner with us and resist the urge to drop off your students' forgotten items at school as we continue to encourage independence and accountability. Thank you so much for your cooperation!
- **5 of St Rita High School's National Honor Society Student Members** will be joining us after school on Tuesdays to help with our Homework Club and Academic Eligibility Study Hall. We are so excited to welcome these strong students and role models to our campus!

Be the change you wish to see in the world.

~Mahatma Gandhi



Peek at the Week

Friday, October 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday ETC HALLOWPALOOZA!
Saturday, October 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady Falcons Playoff Games continue in the Conner T. Lowry Gym • Varsity Football takes on the Chargers of St. Catherine's, in a play-off game @ Br. Rice H.S. @ 4:00
Sunday, October 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady Falcons Playoff Games continue in the Conner T. Lowry • <i>Please join us for Mass: 4pm on Saturday, 8, 10, 12 & 5:30 on Sunday</i>
Monday, October 28 th	
Tuesday, October 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Eligibility Study Hall 2:30-3:15 St. Rita Tutors on campus • HSPT Test Prep 3-4pm • Homework Club 2:30-3pm
Wednesday, October 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EARLY DISMISSAL 1:45 • <i>Faculty In-Service</i> • <i>HW Club, Study Hall & HSPT Test Prep CANCELLED</i>
Thursday, October 31 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy HaLoween! • NO CHOIR TODAY
Friday, November 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All Saint's Day</i>





FALCON OF THE WEEK

Lucas Anleitner, Kindergarten



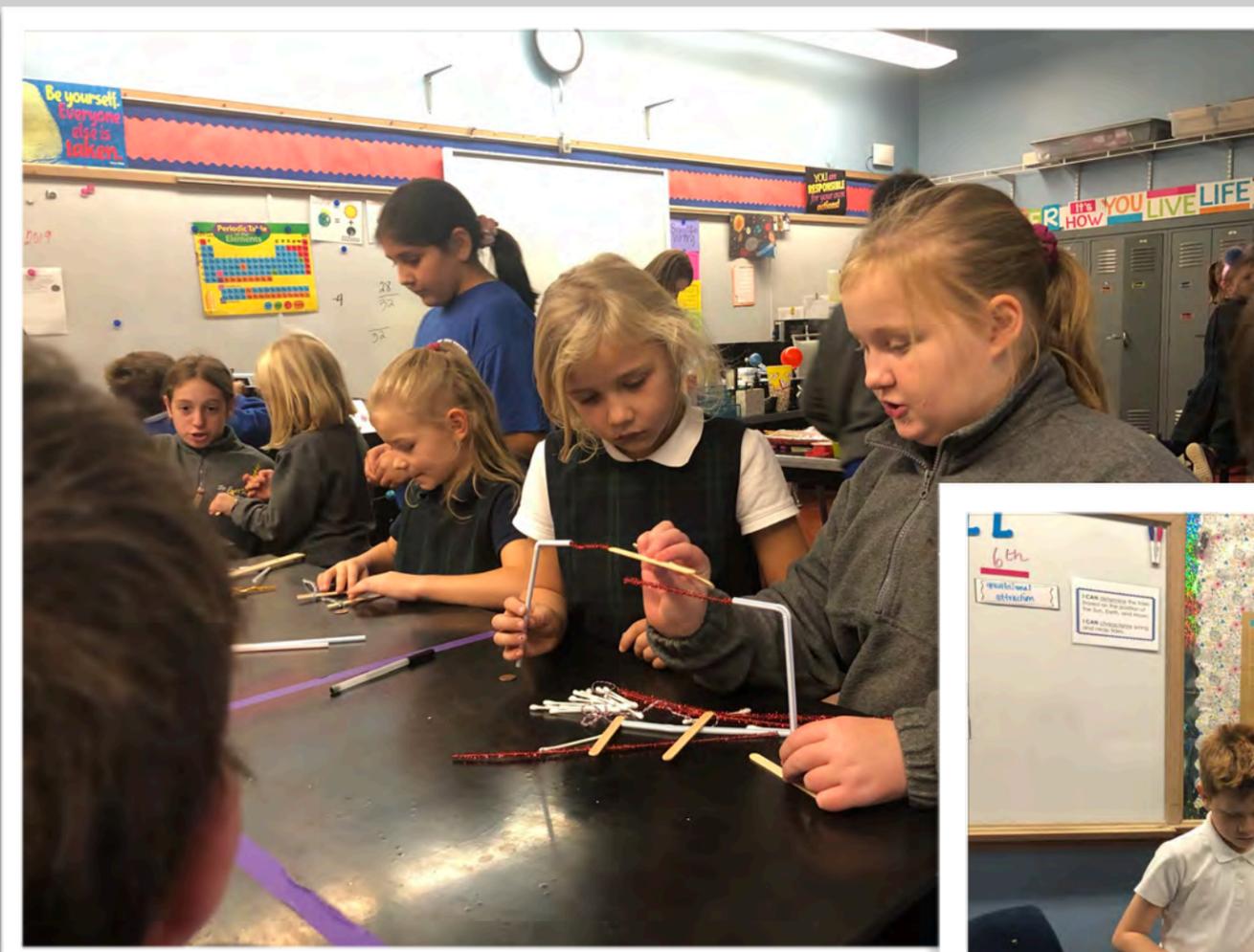
SJF's "Falcon of the Week" is kindergartener, Lucas Anleitner.

This year, 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 demonstrate each and every day. This week Lucas Anleitner was nominated to be our "Falcon of the Week." As Lucas was

waiting patiently in-line to go into Mrs. Ade's ETC class last week, one of our pre-schooler's was hesitant to join the group as he didn't think he had a partner or a friend in the class. Lucas, immediately said, "You can stand with me. I'll be your friend. I am so happy you're here!" Lucas' quick offer to include his young friend quickly turned his day around. After speaking with Lucas' teacher, this anecdote was no surprise to her. I learned that this is an every day occurrence in her class as Lucas is always trying to include everyone by being a good friend and making his classmates feel welcome. Thank you, Lucas, for setting such a great example for all of us. Keep "Flying Like a Falcon," Lucas; you're making a difference!



**St. John Fisher Students
Celebrate Halloween
& Partner Together for a STEM Project**



First Communion Enrollment Mass



**Sunday, October 20th
10:00 a.m. Mass**

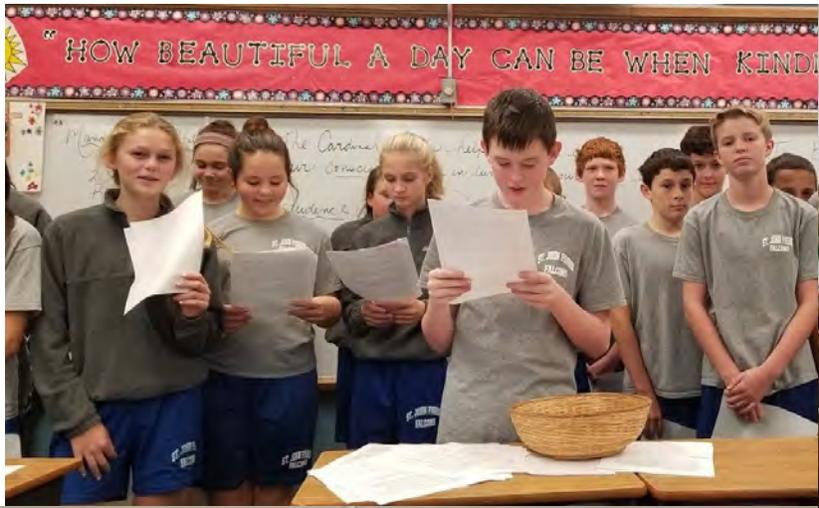


Happy children, faith-filled parents, delighted parishioners and proud family members: Thanks to all who made our First Communion Enrollment Mass a success. Thanks also to Mrs. Suzanne O'Malley and Mrs. Jeanine Edwards for providing and arranging our reception. Be sure to see your family picture on the children's banner. Together we form the Body of Christ and go out to transform the world. Blessings to our Second graders and their families!



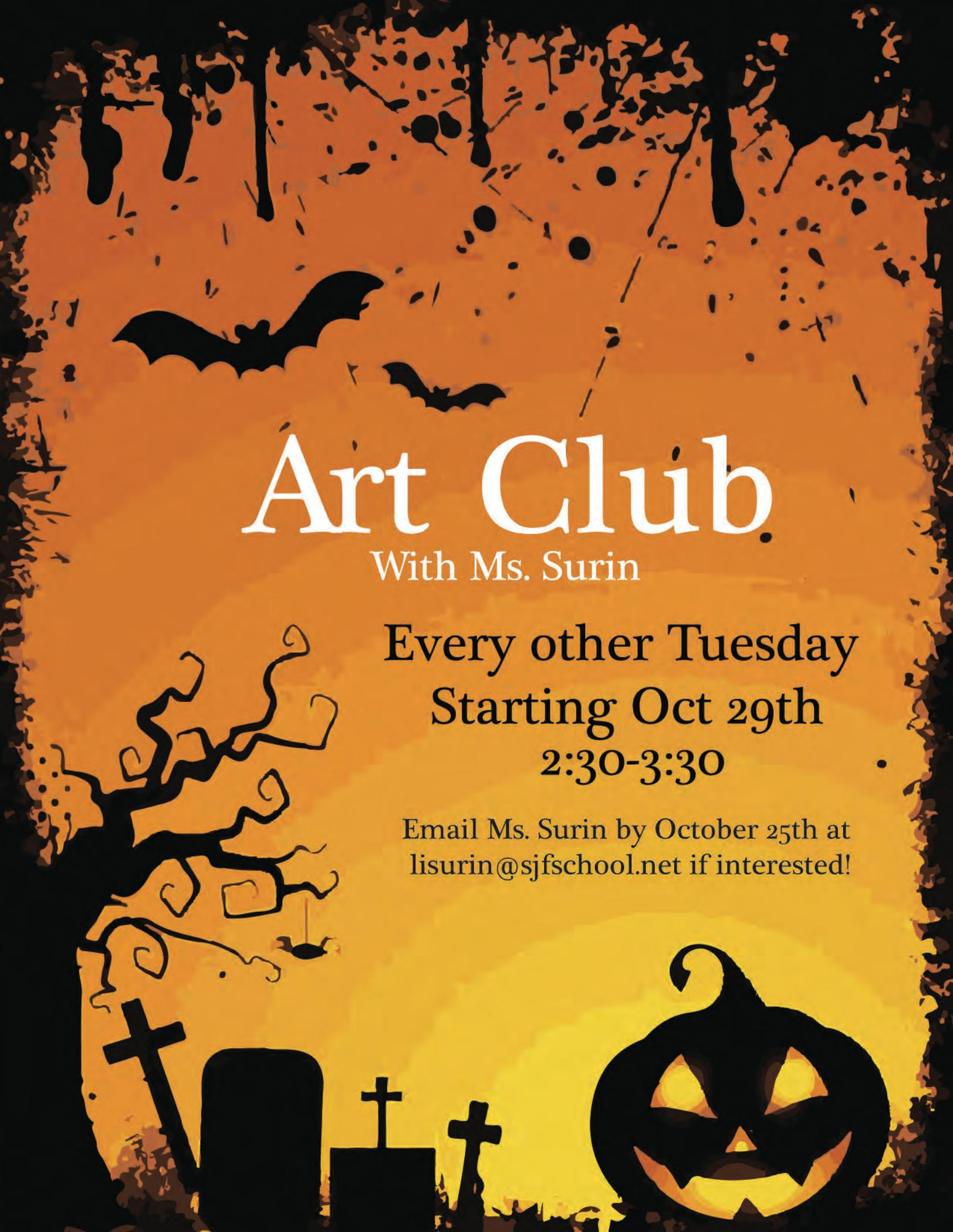


Communion Enrollment 2020



All School Mass hosted by the Seventh Grade Class of 2021
Angels Among Us
Fly Like A Falcon
October 18, 2019



The background is a vibrant orange and yellow gradient, framed by a dark, textured border. At the top, there are silhouettes of trees with falling leaves and two bats in flight. In the center, the text 'Art Club' is written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, 'With Ms. Surin' is written in a smaller, black, serif font. Further down, the schedule 'Every other Tuesday Starting Oct 29th 2:30-3:30' is displayed in a black, serif font. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of a gnarled tree on the left, a graveyard with several tombstones and crosses in the center, and a large, glowing jack-o'-lantern on the right.

Art Club

With Ms. Surin

Every other Tuesday
Starting Oct 29th
2:30-3:30

Email Ms. Surin by October 25th at
lisurin@sjfschool.net if interested!

SOAR's Annual Family Pumpkin Decorating Contest

If your family wishes to participate in the SJF Family Pumpkin Contest, all pumpkins are to be brought down to Kane Hall on Tuesday, October 29th from 7:30-7:50 am. The theme this year is Classic Halloween Character/Creature. We are looking forward to seeing these marvelous masterpieces!!



**Pumpkins must be picked up by Friday, November 1st or they will be thrown away.

ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S *Family Harvest Festival & Pumpkin Patch*

Sunday, October 27, 2019

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Chicago High School
for Agricultural Sciences**

3857 W. 111th St.

Free admission.

Nominal fee per activity.



SPONSORED BY:



**Mt. Greenwood
Civic Association**



SJF Confirmation Retreat **@ Saint Rita High School**

Tuesday,
October 29th

Time:
8:00 - 2:15 p.m.



All 7th & 8th grade students are invited to attend this exciting retreat led by Father Tom McCarthy, O.S.A.

Students will bring a lunch with a drink.

Dessert will be provided.

Busses leave SJF at 8:15 a.m.

C.F.F. Students

Meet at the School Office/ Gym entrance: at 8:00 a.m.

SW corner of 102nd & Washtenaw

contact: echermak@sjfschool.net



Sunday,
November 3rd
10:00 a.m.

Time Change
Sunday

Confirmation Enrollment Mass

We welcome all members of the Confirmation class of 2020 and their families to officially begin Confirmation preparation. The Confirmation Candidates will be introduced to the parish. Please sit in the reserved section close to the front. We look forward to seeing you there.



FUNDAMENTALS AND FUN!

FOR GRADES 1, 2 AND 3! • EVERY SATURDAY IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY!



LITTLE TYKES BASKETBALL 2020

SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY!

- Go to ckchicago.org
 - Click on School
 - Go to Athletics Tab
 - Click on Register for a Sport
- Go to Little Tykes Basketball [Click here to register](#)

REGISTRATION WILL BE **OCT. 28 THROUGH DEC. 13, 2019**

CHRIST THE KING GYM, 9235 S. HAMILTON

Questions? Matt.aguilarck@gmail.com