



ST. JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

December 2018 Newsletter

Nov. 18th Confirmation Commissioning Mass

On November 18th, the eighth graders attended a special commissioning mass. At this mass they received a blessing and asked for continued prayers and support from our parish during their time preparing for Confirmation.



Nov. 9th Veteran's Day Prayer Service



On November 9th, our middle school and junior high students were blessed with the opportunity to speak with Veterans from surrounding communities. They learned more about what it means to serve as Catholics as well as citizens of a great nation! The day concluded with a prayer service hosted by our 6th graders, who recognized and thanked our veterans for all that they do.

First Grade Field Trip

Last month, our first graders took a trip to Children's Farm in Palos, IL, where they learned about animals and even got to touch and see some up-close!



News from November:

St. John Fisher Introduces New Academic Team!

On the foundation built by a great result at the Marist Academic Olympics, in which Fisher finished 4th overall and 2nd in math, we are excited to announce that we have created a competitive Academic Team for 7th & 8th grade students. In these competitions, students will put their Science, Math, History, Art, English and Pop Culture knowledge to the test. With a wide variety of competition rules, these scholars will have plenty of unique opportunities for success. Our first practice was on Nov. 16th and included recreating the Statue of Liberty out of cardboard recycling and using 6 sheets of paper to stretch all the way down the hallway, among other exercises! We look forward to a great season!

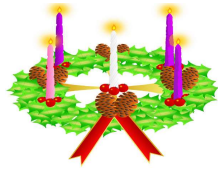
SJF Students Attend Special Gold Star Mother's Event

Mr. Gibson and select 8th grade students shared the privilege of going to a special re-dedication of the Gold Star Mother's Memorial Monument at the Dan Ryan Woods on November 8th. Among the mothers was Modie Lavin, the mother of SJF alum Conner Lowry. Our students experienced a great ceremony and received a lesson in public history and memory that they will not soon forget. A special thank you to the Admissions Department at Brother Rice for providing transportation!

Fisher Parent Helps Students Apply Real World Applications to ELA

Mr. Michael Clancy was kind of enough to join the 8th graders last week as part of their cumulative project to studying *To Kill A Mockingbird*. For Mrs. Nash's ELA class, the 8th graders read and studied *To Kill A Mockingbird* and participated in many accompanying projects in order to develop a deeper understanding of the novel. Mr. Clancy is an expert criminal defense attorney, like that of the main character in the novel, Atticus Finch. Mr. Clancy addressed the many important aspects of the novel, but emphasized how Atticus did such a phenomenal job defending Tom Robinson that not only is he role model for attorneys in this capacity, but he is also a role model for all, as he emphasizes and embodies the need for change in our country against prejudice of any kind. Mr. Clancy was able to make many relevant connections to the novel which was published in 1960, but was set in the 1930's Jim Crow South, and our modern day world. We are so grateful for this unique experience and to hear the important perspective Mr. Clancy has on the most revered novel as well as our justice system today.

Come to celebrate Advent at St John Fisher!



The Schreiber family and their wreath
(Ben, Ella, Will, Cate)



Annie Maloney with St. Nick

1st SUNDAY, DEC. 2nd, St Nick's Mass (10 AM), Family Advent Wreath Making (after)

Come bring a wrapped toy for our Pro Labore Dei toy drive to give to St. Nick at the 10 AM Mass, on the "To/ From" tag note appropriate age & if appropriate, gender. Pictures are welcome after Mass, and St. Nick will have a special treat for all kids. Afterwards join us in Kane Hall to Make your own fresh wreath, have a treat and some hot cocoa! All supplies will be provided. \$30/ Family. Please RSVP by Wed. 11/28/18 to Bridget Stalla at 773-852-4698, or fsaatsjf@gmail.com.

St. Nicholas is scheduled to make a "guest appearance" and accept the wrapped gifts at the 10:00 Mass on Sunday, December 2nd with a special treat for those who attend. Children are asked to bring a wrapped toy with age and gender marked clearly on the outside of the package. You may bring the gift either to the **10:00 Mass on Sunday, Dec. 2**, or to school before **Thursday, Dec. 13**.

Suggestions for Christmas gifts:

Pre School and Kindergarten: Toys for infants and toddlers (0-4)

Grades 1, 2, and 3. Toys for 5-8 year olds (also mittens and hats)

Grades 4, and 5. Books/Games for 9-12 year olds (also mittens and hats)

Grades 6, 7 and 8: Gift Cards, Teen/Adult size hats and gloves.

THURSDAY, DEC. 6th – Christmas Crafts, 5:30 PM

Join us for Cookies, Cocoa, and Crafts! Come to participate in this annual tradition where kids can make some crafty gifts, and get a tasty treat for a small fee. Bring a box to bring your crafts home afterward. RSVP to Clare Elfayer at fsaatsjf@gmail.com, or on FSA facebook.

2nd SUNDAY DEC. 9th, 10 AM Mass - Celebrate OUR LADY of GUADALUPE with a special presentation at 10 AM Mass by the Children's Liturgy attendees. Family Rosary will be held afterward.

3rd SUNDAY DEC. 16th, 10 AM Mass - Celebrate Joyful/Gaudete Sunday! Kids can join in St. Lucy's procession of lights at the offertory. A bake sale will be held afterward with proceeds to go to Pro Labore Dei. If you would like to donate baked goods, please email us at fsaatsjf@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 21st, ~6:30-7:30 PM – Children's Christmas Novena- Refreshments will be served. All ages are welcome. Novena is here:

http://www.jclubcatholic.org/portals/0/tpdf/christmas_novena_for_kids.pdf

4th SUNDAY, DEC. 23rd, Candy Cane Sunday- Christmas is almost here!

SATURDAY, FEB. 2nd - Mark your calendars for trivia night to test your trivia knowledge! More details to come...



Stalla, Terri, Grande, and Goggin families at Christmas Novena 2017

Mark your calendars for these upcoming school events!



TUESDAY, DEC. 4th- 4th Grade will be taking a field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry. They will be going to learn about “Christmas Around the World” as well as they will be visiting the “You: The Experience” exhibit.

TUESDAY, DEC. 11th- A Christmas Concert will be held in the church at 7 pm. The St. John Fisher Children’s Choir, Adult Choir, and Instrumentalists will be performing holiday selections. Join us to celebrate the season and spread Christmas cheer!

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19th- The annual Kindergarten Christmas play will be held at 1 pm in the church. It is sure to be the highlight of your holiday season!

The special lunch for December will be from Calabria. Our upcoming special lunch in January will be from Swanson’s Deli.

Getting to know the Falcons!



Ms. Broncato, 2nd Grade

Favorite book? To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Favorite food? Sushi

Cubs or Sox fan? White Sox

Favorite non-school activity? I like to run when I have the time, and I enjoy reading too. I think reading is a great way to relax your mind and use your imagination!

Favorite thing about working at SJF? I really enjoy seeing my students every day! They are so curious and funny, I would say they are my favorite part about working at this school. That, and the awesome teachers that I am so lucky to work with!

Mr. Gibson, 7th Grade

Favorite book? The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Favorite food? Fish and chips

Cubs or Sox fan? Cubs, Fly the W!

Favorite non-school activity? I also love to read and run! Running, for me, is a great way to not only stay in shape, but to also strengthen my mind/will power!

Favorite thing about working at SJF? Not a day goes by where I don't smile. The entire staff is so welcoming and fun to be around. The students provide me with some of the best interactions I receive all day. I never know what I will get each day and it's a fun surprise!

Caitlin McDonagh, 8th Grade

Favorite book? Orbiting Jupiter by Gary D. Schmidt

Favorite food? Steak with Mashed Potatoes

Cubs or Sox fan? Sox

Favorite non-school activity? Basketball

Favorite thing about SJF? The sports teams!

Jimmy Crowley, 8th Grade

Favorite book? To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Favorite food? Steak and Fries

Cubs or Sox fan? Cubs

Favorite non-school activity? Video games, when I'm not studying of course! Reading as well!

Favorite thing about SJF? All the nice people I get to see everyday in the halls.

Featured Artists of the Week



From left to right, artists are: Ava D. (1st), Casey M. (2nd), Emma W. (K), Erin A. (3rd), Josephine M. (1st), June F. (1st), Liam F. (6th), Margot S. (5th), Tony R. (5th), Paddy M. (K), Sadie R. (4th), Libby S. (2nd), Marty C. (8th), Neila R. (7th)