

St. James School
 73 Park Street
 Manchester, CT 06040
 (860) 643-5088
www.SaintJamesSchool.net

Saber Stories

December 2016



Patricia Kanute, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint James School provides a quality Catholic education inspired by the Sisters of Mercy and based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. We strive to develop the full potential of every child, to encourage service to others, and to build a foundation for independent life-long learning.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

NO EXTENDED DAYCARE AFTER SCHOOL
ON DECEMBER 9

SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 23
12:05PM DISMISSAL




THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Some of the fondest memories we have of our life as children center around the Christmas season and the days that led up to it. We look at it all a little differently when we have children of our own. Suddenly the carefree days of childhood, when all we worried about was what we were getting for Christmas, fade into history as we rush about trying to do so much in so little time.

Try not to forget those days of Christmas past. Christ was born to show us what it meant to serve others. Our childhood days allowed us to benefit from the service of those who believed in Him. Now it's our turn to teach today's children that same lesson. It isn't an easy task but it's well worth the effort. Christ's task wasn't easy, either, but He thought we were worth the effort, too.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec 2	End of First Trimester
Dec 5	Advent Wreath Lighting, 8:15AM, Gym Internet Safety Program, Grades 6,7,8, 9AM, Gym
Dec 7	Christmas Concert FMI Band and Grades 1 and 4, 9AM, School 6:30PM, Family and Friends
Dec 8	Feast of Immaculate Conception Mass, 9:15AM, Church
Dec 9	Staff Christmas Party FOUR HOUR DAY-12:05PM DISMISSAL. **NO EXTENDED DAYCARE** \$1.00 Red & Green Dress Down Report Cards Distributed
Dec 11	St. James School Mass, 9AM, Church
Dec 12	Advent Wreath Lighting, 8:15AM, Gym
Dec 14	Christmas Store (Only One Day) Gym
Dec 16	Tree of Blessings Ceremony, 8:30AM, Gym School Dance at St. Bridget School, Grades 6, 7, 8, 7-10PM
Dec 19	Advent Wreath Lighting, 8:15AM, Gym
Dec 21	Pre-K Christmas Show, 12:15PM-2PM, Gym
Dec 23	Advent Mass, 9:15AM, Church FOUR HOUR DAY-12:05PM DISMISSAL
Dec 24- Jan 2	NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS RECESS 
Dec 25	Merry Christmas to All!
Jan 1	Happy New Year to All!
Jan 3	School Resumes

TREE OF BLESSINGS

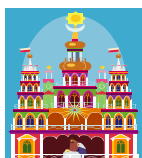
We are currently accepting orders for the 2016 Tree of Blessings. You may purchase a beautifully designed cardstock ornament *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* a loved one. The ornament, with your loved one's name, will be displayed on the school Christmas tree. A Prayer Service honoring the recipients will be held on Friday, December 16th at 8:30am in the gymnasium of Saint James School. Extra order forms will be available in the school office or at the exits of the Church. **Please have all order forms in by Monday, December 12th.** All proceeds will benefit Saint James School. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Have a Blessed Christmas season!



SZOPKA KRAKOWSKA CONTEST

The Szopka Krakowska, or nativity scene/crib, is a Christmas tradition originating from Krakow, Poland, and dating back to the 19th century. Though commonly called "Christmas Cribs" in English, they look more like castles or cathedrals. All students in the 6th grade created these Christmas castles for the nativity of Jesus and will be entered in the 36th annual Szopka Krakowska Contest on Nov. 27, sponsored by the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. at the Polish National Home in Hartford, CT.

We are so very proud of each and every entry and all the time the 6th graders spent in creating beautiful places for the Holy Family. Some of the castles will be on display in the lower Church after all Masses in December. Please stop in to see these beautiful creations.



INCLEMENT WEATHER



During the season with inclement weather, the decision to have a delayed opening, snow day, or early dismissal is made by the Manchester Public school system. The announcement, "Manchester Public Schools", is made on TV stations WVIT (NBC "Channel 30") and WFSB (CBS "Channel 3"), and websites www.nbcconnecticut.com, and www.wfsb.com. **Please sign up for automatic email or text notification at either of these websites.** If you do not have email or texting capabilities, please listen and watch for these announcements on the radio, computer, or TV and have plans in place between you and your child/ren for early dismissals. If a delayed opening is announced, continue to check for updates in case a later announcement cancels school.

THERE IS NO BEFORE SCHOOL CARE ON LATE OPENING DAYS AND EXTENDED DAY CARE IS CANCELLED ON EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

On Friday, December 16th, St. Bridget School is hosting the annual *dressier* dance. Please note, girls who are wearing any dress with straps, regardless of width, strapless or halter will be required to wear a sweater or cover up for the entire evening. Boys should wear a nice pair of pants (similar to uniform pants) and a collared shirt. A jacket or tie is not required. Jeans and T-shirts are not permitted. To avoid issues on December 16th, please follow these guidelines. No exceptions will be made.



Do you shop on Amazon.com? Amazon's new charitable giving program, AmazonSmile, will donate a percentage of your total Amazon purchases to St. James School! Simply type <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0653122> into your website browser and begin shopping. Or, visit <http://smile.amazon.com> and, when prompted to select a charity, enter *St. James School Manchester* or *06-0653122* in the search box. Entering Amazon through the "Smile" link gives you the SAME PRODUCTS, SAME PRICES, SAME SERVICE as Amazon.com, but with the extra bonus of supporting St. James School. We thank you for your support!



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES

The Advanced Band performed at the Saint James School Veterans' Day Assembly on Thursday, Nov. 10th. The Band students performed "Marches of the Armed Forces" which includes the marching songs of all five branches of the service. Mr. Corcoran thanks the school administration for showcasing the band at this big event.

The Beginning band performed for their parents and the 4th grade on Thursday, Nov. 17th, demonstrating their newly acquired practice skills.

The Saint James School Christmas Concert will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7th, at 6:30PM. All band students will wear black and white to the evening concert. Any alumni and parents who play wind instruments are welcome to sit with the Advanced Band. Please contact Mr. Corcoran if you wish to perform.

Regional Band applications are due on Nov. 30th. Please send them to the Portland P.O. Box 428.

DRESS CODE REMINDERS AND UPDATES

- ❖ Hair must be neat, clean, and well cut.
- ❖ Boys' hair must not touch their shirt collar and must not cover their eyes or eyebrows.
- ❖ Girls can wear navy tights and navy knee socks plus white socks on gym days and with shorts and long pants.
- ❖ Girls in Grades K-8 can wear shoes with straps and tie shoes.
- ❖ No slip-ons, loafers or topsiders/dock siders (boat shoes).

DRESS DOWN DAY

- ❖ LEGGINGS ARE IN FASHION NOW. WHEN LEGGINGS ARE WORN, PLEASE MAKE SURE THE TOP WORN IS LONG ENOUGH TO REACH MID-THIGH.
- ❖ Winter uniform November-May. No shorts.
- ❖ If a student comes to school in inappropriate attire for Dress Down Day, he/she will be required to call a parent for a change of clothing.



NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Important Information Regarding School Vision/Hearing/Scoliosis Screening

Effective July 1, 2015, The Connecticut State Legislature changed the law regarding school screenings for vision, hearing and scoliosis screenings.

According to **Substitute House Bill No. 7023 (Public Act NO. 15-215)**, vision and hearing school screenings will be provided for Grades **Kindergarten, Grade 1, 3, 4, 5** only. The scoliosis school screenings will be provided for **female students in Grades 5 and 7 and male students in Grade 8 or 9**. **The Saint James School nurse will follow these screening guidelines as noted above and will provide scoliosis screenings for male students in Grade 8 only.**

As always, please contact the school nurse directly at Saint James for any additional information.

ABSENCE CALLS

Please contact the school as early as possible each day your child is home sick.

Parents must call the school, or send an email to either of the following email addresses:

- ❖ mainoffice@saintjameschool.net
- ❖ edesignore@saintjameschool.net

before 8:30 AM to report daily absences. Please give your name and your relation to the student. Give the student's name and homeroom and the reason for the absence. If your child is ill, please report the nature of the illness (flu, fever, sore throat, gastro-intestinal, etc.). If you have any health-related questions, please contact Mrs. Vignati.



Please don't forget to clip Box Tops for Saint James School!

SJS 2016 ANNUAL FUND

Within the next week, you will be receiving a copy of the school's Fall 2016 Community Newsletter, along with a donor card for our 2016 Annual Fund.

As noted in the Annual Fund letter sent home this past May and detailed at the recent State of the School meeting, **Annual Fund donations provide our school with funding for much-needed capital improvement projects that are not covered by tuition or funded by the SJS Foundation.** This year, donations will help defray the cost of replacing another section of the school's aging roof.

For those families and friends who have already donated, THANK YOU again for your support!! With your generosity, we are 62% of the way to our goal for the year (and 76% of the way to last year's total), with 4 weeks left to go.

If you have not yet made a (tax-deductible) donation, we hope that you will consider helping Saint James School stay strong for the future by making a contribution today. Every donation makes a difference in enabling us to make necessary improvements to our school facility without having to dramatically raise tuition.

Please visit www.saintjameschool.net/annualfund for more information. As always, we thank you for all you do to support of our great school!

**NOTES FROM THE NURSE**

Absence Calls: Please contact the school as early as possible each day your child is home sick.

St. James School uses the following protocol for reporting absences: Parents must call the main office before 8:30 AM to report daily absences. Please give your name and your relation to the student. Give the student's name and homeroom and the reason for the absence. If your child is ill, please report the nature of the illness (fever, sore throat, gastro-intestinal, etc.).

As we enter the cold and flu season, a few reminders on what you can do to keep children and families healthy:

- **It is recommended that everyone aged 6 months and older be vaccinated against influenza to protect themselves and their family and friends throughout the 2016-2017 flu season.** For further information, contact your health care provider, visit the Center for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/flu website, or call the CDC Info Center at 1-800-232-4636. This CDC website offers great information and advice regarding this flu season.
- **Influenza is spread mainly person-to-person** through the coughing and sneezing of infected people.
- **Take everyday actions to stay healthy. Teach your children/family to:**
- **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.** Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze, or use alcohol-based hand cleaners.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.**
- **Be familiar with cold symptoms and flu symptoms.**
- **Recognize a fever or signs of a fever.** A fever is a temperature, taken with a thermometer, that is 100 °F or higher. If you are not able to measure a temperature, the sick person might have a fever if he or she feels warm, has a flushed appearance, or is sweating or shivering.
- **Follow public health advice.**
- **Find healthy ways to deal with stress and anxiety.**
- **Keep children and adults with cold or flu-like symptoms home. The CDC recommends that adults or children stay home from work or school at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever and are not taking fever-reducing drugs (i.e., Tylenol, Motrin, etc.).** In addition, children and adults should stay home if they have other symptoms such as a wheezing, croupy cough, or a thick, colored discharge from the nose, or other symptoms that indicate that they are too ill to go to school or work. Contact your physician for further advice.
- **If you are sick, limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.** Sick people should stay home, except to go to the doctor's office, and should avoid contact with others. Keeping sick children/adults at home may reduce the number of people who get infected.

Always contact your health care provider with questions or concerns about your child's illness symptoms.