

December 2025

SABER



STORIES

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

There is no better place to witness the Christmas spirit than in a Catholic school during the month of December! There are many wonderful traditions and celebrations that Saint James School students, staff, and families will enjoy this month as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ.

We will begin the month of December with an Advent prayer service in our school's gymnasium. Then, on Wednesday of that same week students will return to the gym to shop at the Saint James School Christmas Store. Thank you to our HSA parent volunteers for hosting this - our students are always so excited to pick out gifts for their loved ones all on their own!

On December 10th we will enjoy some great Christmas music with the annual SJS Christmas Concert featuring daytime and evening performances by our 1st and 4th grade students and our school's three bands. For families of performers, please review the details in this newsletter about attire and arrival times.

Throughout the month there will be lots of spiritual reflection and prayer including the Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass on the 8th, the Tree of Blessings ceremony on the 15th, and our Christmas Anticipation Mass on December 22nd. Of course traditions such as celebrating St. Nicholas Day, classroom visits from Santa, and the Holiday Bowl for middle school students will also round out our month here at school.

The faculty and I remain grateful for your prayers, support, and generosity as we carry out our academic and faith-filled mission together in a partnership between school and family. I wish you a healthy, relaxing, and joyous Advent and Christmas season.

Peace in Christ,

Mrs. Zorger

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint James School provides a quality Catholic education based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, building a foundation for independent, lifelong learners. We strive to develop every child's full potential through faith, academics, service, and character formation.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 3 - Christmas Store

December 5 - Trimester 1 Marking Period Ends

December 10 - Christmas Concert 6:30pm (Gr. 1 & Gr. 4, All Instrumental Music students)

December 11 - \$1.00+ "Comfy" Dress Down for CCMC

December 12 - 12:05pm Dismissal Day **NO AFTERCARE**

December 12 - Report Cards Sent Home

December 23 - **11:00am Dismissal**

December 24 through January 2 - Christmas Recess

January 5 - School Resumes

IMPORTANT NOTES

- **There will be NO AFTER-SCHOOL CARE on Friday, December 12th, a 12:05pm dismissal day. Please plan accordingly.**
- For safety reasons, please **do not hold the door** for another person to enter. It is important that we monitor who is coming into our building at all times.
- Parking cannot occur in certain areas as it blocks the buses and disrupts traffic flow. Please follow posted signs and school protocol.
- Academic/behavioral concerns should always be discussed with the teacher first.
- Crossing Guards are in place to safely help you cross the street. **ONLY** cross at cross walks and wait for the Crossing Guard to signal it's safe before stepping into the street.



SJS CHRISTMAS STORE

Our annual Christmas Store, sponsored by the SJS Home & School Association, will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd in the school gymnasium. Each grade, including Pre-Kindergarten, will have an opportunity to shop for immediate family members during school hours. There will be a wide variety of items for students to select from, costing anywhere from \$1.00 and \$10.00.

On Tuesday, December 2nd, all students will be sent home with a **RED ENVELOPE**. Please write the people your child/ren are shopping for on the front of the envelope and enclose cash for those purchases. Parent volunteers will be on hand to help the younger children select items within their budget. Each student may purchase for **UP TO FOUR** individuals.

FRIENDZY SEL PROGRAM

As adults, we know that stress and uncertainty can have a negative impact on our minds, emotions, and bodies. As part of the whole-child education at Saint James School, we have always strived to equip students with life skills that will serve them well both in the classroom and beyond. In this month's Friendzy lesson, our students will discuss strategies to help them be less stressed and in better control of their emotions. These strategies include praying, exercising, deep breathing, listening to music, distracting the brain with a puzzle, and adjusting mindset.



Our catch phrase for this month is:

Stress Less · Breathe Easy

Parents are encouraged to continue the conversation at home by asking their children about each unit in the FRIENDZY program.

23RD ANNUAL

SAINT JAMES SCHOOL TREE OF BLESSINGS

We are currently accepting orders for the 2025 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 will be held on December 15th with students praying for all those whose names appear on the tree. A copy of the order form can be found [HERE](#). Please have all order forms in by December 8th so ornaments can be made in time for the ceremony. All proceeds benefit Saint James School.

ORNAMENTS WILL BE LARGER THAN SHOWN



2025 ANNUAL FUND

Supporting Excellence in Education...for Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond



As the calendar year draws to a close, we wish to extend a special *Thank You* to all the members of the Saint James

community who have generously supported our 2025 Annual Fund Campaign!

As previously noted, donations help us to further enrich the faith-filled educational experience provided to our students and respond to unforeseen opportunities that may arise.

If you have not yet made a (tax-deductible) donation to the Saint James School 2025 Annual Fund Campaign, we hope that you will consider making a contribution today. Every donation makes a difference!

Please visit <https://saintjameschool.net/annualfund/> for more information and to make an on-line donation.



On Thursday, December 11th, students may wear “comfy” clothes (sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts) to school for a minimum \$1.00 donation. All money collected, which should come to school with the student on the 11th, will benefit the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

CCMC’s annual PJ day, which many schools and businesses across the state participate in, not only helps to raise money for a great cause, but honors all of the brave kids fighting cancer at CCMC and elsewhere.

Please remember, students must adhere to all Saint James School dress down guidelines (noted in the school handbook) and shorts may not be worn at this time of year. Also, no slippers due to safety concerns.

REMINDERS FROM THE NURSE

- All pre-kindergarten students must have a doctors note showing they received the Flu vaccine between August 1st and December 31st before they return from Christmas Recess.
- All students entering Pre-K3, Pre-K4, Kindergarten, and 7th grade in September 2026 must have a new physical form on file before the 1st day of school. Please make sure to have a new form completed next time your student receives a physical.



UPCOMING EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The following extra curricular activities will begin in January and will be opening for enrollment in December. Keep an eye on the daily email for details as space is limited in all of the following:

- Ski Club (Grades 3 - 8)
- Chess Club (Grades 3 - 8)
- Mad Science (Grades 1 & 2)
- Cooking Club (Grades 5 - 8)

AOH SPORTING EVENT CODE OF CONDUCT



The Archdiocese of Hartford’s code of conduct for parents, guardians, and spectators at any school-sponsored sporting event or activity is outlined below. This pertains to school-sponsored athletic events held in our gym AND those being held at other schools or venues.

1. Model Christian behavior for students, spectators, and coaches, remembering that they represent the school and their children in the community and at the sporting venue.
2. Encourage good sportsmanship, effort and teamwork from the student athletes, coaches and spectators.
3. Remember that a ticket or admission to a competition is a privilege.
4. Learn the rules of the sport so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place or respectfully inquire of the coach about such situations after the competition.
5. Respect the judgments of the officials and efforts and strategies of the coaches by refraining from yelling, shouting, arguing, gesturing or inciting other spectators to such behaviors.
6. Remember that athletic experiences are learning opportunities for the players.
7. Make sports a part of the child’s life not everything in his/her life.
8. Keep winning (and losing) in perspective; help the child to do the same.
9. Help the student-athlete meet academic requirements as well as meeting the responsibilities of the team and coach.
10. Let the coach guide and instruct your child during competitions and practices.
11. Compliment and encourage all participants. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing.
12. Support all efforts to remove unsporting behavior from children’s sporting events.
13. Refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco before and during competition and/or after competitions while still on or near the site of the competition.
14. Ensure that the student-athlete has returned all school property including uniforms in a timely manner and in good condition. Parents are responsible for replacing or repairing any missing, damaged, or destroyed property.



**ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH
NATIVITY OF THE LORD
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Christmas Eve Masses - 12/24/25

4:00 pm - St. Bridget Church

4:00 pm - St. James Church

4:00 pm - St. Bartholomew Church

Midnight Mass - 12/24/25

12:00 am - St. Bridget Church

Christmas Day Masses - 12/25/25

8:00 am - St. James Church

10:00 am - St. Bridget Church

10:00 am - St. James Church

10:00 am - St. Bartholomew Church



January 31, 2026 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Invitations to this fun, adults-only event were sent home with students the week of November 17th. All are welcome—additional copies of the invitation can be requested from the SJS main office.

*** AUCTION DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS ***

If you would like to donate an item to the Auction portion of the Gala, please email the HSA OR send a copy of the completed [Gala Auction Donation Form](#) to the main office. If you or someone you know would like to advertise their business (or send well wishes to your child's class, etc.) advertising and sponsorship information can be found here: [Gala Sponsorship Form](#).

*** CLASS BASKETS ***

Room parents are finalizing the class baskets, which will be raffled off to raise money for our school. Thank you to everyone who has donated. We can't wait to share the finished results later in the month.

SJS CHRISTMAS CONCERT



The annual SJS Christmas Concert will be held on December 11th featuring the Saint James School bands as well as performances by our 1st and 4th grade students.

A daytime concert will be held in the morning for students and staff (students wear regular school uniform attire for the daytime performance). The evening concert will begin at 6:30pm and is for parents and friends of the school. All performers are expected to attend.

Performer Arrival Times & Attire for Evening Show

Band:

Band students should arrive at the school cafeteria between 6:00pm-6:15pm. Evening concert attire for band students is a black shirt and black dress pants (or girls can opt for a black skirt if it is knee length or longer). Red bow ties will be provided for the students to wear when they arrive. *Any alumni and parents who play wind instruments are welcome to sit in with the advanced band. Please contact Mr. Barakat at mrbarakatband@gmail.com if you wish to perform.*

4th Grade:

All 4th grade students should arrive between 6:00pm-6:15pm and report to the cafeteria; Attire for the evening performance is "Sunday Best" or "Holiday Best" (band students wear attire for band performers noted above). At the end of the concert teachers will bring students back to the gym for dismissal.

1st Grade:

All 1st grade students should arrive between 6:00pm-6:15pm and report to the breezeway, where a staff member will guide them to their classroom to prepare for the concert; Family members should proceed to the gym to find a seat. Attire for the evening performance is "Sunday Best" or "Holiday Best." At the end of the concert please pick your student up in their classroom.

