



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy

February 18, 2021 Newsletter



*Empowering students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.*

Dear SJRS Families,

As we begin the Lenten season, when we may be giving something up or fasting, I think about the many things that we have all already given up during this very trying and difficult time. We have had to give up hugs and handshakes and even smiles. Pope Francis (in his 2021 Lenten message) says: "In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope...In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn..." I believe Pope Francis is calling on us to fast from negativity and hurting words. He wants us to hope.

I sincerely hope that everyone (students, parents, and teachers) can get some much needed rest over the next break. We all need it! It has been a difficult and taxing time as we remain one of the only schools in the area attending full-time throughout this pandemic. We all continue to do our best adhering to the rules and strictures of our environment and will aim to sustain our efforts until the environment changes. I appreciate all of your care in making sure the entire community remains safe and informed.

**For those who are traveling outside of New England during the winter break, please consider if your family members need to quarantine or get COVID tests before your child returns to school. Our remote learning is always an option to use, if needed, but we do need to know who will be using it. Please contact me directly to discuss your specific situation, and the proper testing and quarantine protocols that are necessary for the return to school.** Also, everyone will receive our monthly COVID screening form before returning on Monday, March 1. Please be sure to respond promptly.

Thank you to all those who have already completed the **2021-22 re-enrollment** online! Kate is working on getting everyone their re-enrollment gifts as quickly as possible. A reminder to please complete this re-enrollment for next year by March 1 in order to get the early bird discount. If you have any questions, please let me know.

I hope that everyone enjoys a great winter break next week! **THANK YOU** for your continued efforts as we all work together to keep us in school!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith  
Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/19 – Stations of the Cross (1:30pm) (Grades 4-10)
- 2/22-2/26 – **Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)**
- 3/1 – Early bird 2021-22 re-enrollment ends
- 3/1-3/5 – NHDI Residency (Grades PreK-4)
- 3/12 – Faculty professional development (**NO SCHOOL**)



## Mark 1:12-15

*At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted[a] by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*



*For Valentine's Day, Mrs. Smith's Preschool class donated items to Hundred Nights Shelter.*

## SJRS CHILDCARE NEWS

Please be sure to register your student for Childcare at least 10 days in advance.



[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the week of **March 1**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the week of **March 8**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the week of **March 15**.

## SJRS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND Sectionals Schedule from Mr. Thies

### Week of March 1

#### TUESDAY

10:00 - 10:30 - Saxophone

10:30 - 11:00 - Trombone

#### WEDNESDAY

10:30 - 11:00 - Trumpet

1:00 - 1:30 - Bass

#### THURSDAY

9:00 - 9:30 - Percussion

9:30 - 10:00 - Clarinet/Viola

#### FRIDAY

1:30 - 2:00 - Flute/Violin

Please be sure that your child has their instrument in school on the day of their sectional. **THANK YOU!**



## Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, May 8 -- 9am-2pm  
Outdoors at St. Joseph Regional School  
92 Wilson Street, Keene, NH

### SPRING CRAFT FAIR

**Calling all crafters!** In May, we will be having an outdoor craft fair in our parking lot. More details will be coming on this, but for now, we would like to give our own families an opportunity to get a vendor table first before we open registration to others outside our school and parish communities. If you are interested and would like more details, please contact Theresa Adams at [craftfair@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:craftfair@stjosephkeene.org). Or go to:

<https://www.stjosephkeene.org/spring-craft-fair>

We are very excited about this new event!



*The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students recently worked on these great self-portraits – with big bubblegum bubbles! – in Art class with Miss Fletcher!*

