



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



December 19, 2024

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

Dear Parents and Staff,

On behalf of our Pastor and President, Fr. Alan Tremblay, and the entire faculty and staff of St. Joseph Regional School and Our Lady of Mercy Academy, we wish all of our families a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May you celebrate anew the birth of the Prince of Peace in your hearts and in your homes. As 2025 nears, may you also be prepared to ring in the Jubilee Year, as "Pilgrims of Hope", a hope founded on our knowledge that God loves us and has given us all a special trust in caring for the beautiful students of SJRS and OLMA.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and of our shared mission to educate our students in their faith.

The annual Christmas Concert and Pageant was held on Tuesday. Students showcased their abilities in song, drama, and instrumentation, so we thank them and the Concert Directors, Mrs. Heeran, Mr. Thies, Mrs. Lundin, and Mrs. Amundson, for the entertainment that we all enjoyed. Thanks also to our Concert 'muscle', Richard Anderson, John MacDougall, Jay Dunnell, Karthik Gowda, Ted Ferguson and Kris Keith and helpers, and Grayson Smith, and to Mrs. Pratt who organized this super team.

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington
Principal

MATTHEW 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 12/20 -- Christmas Dress Down Day!

Mon-Fri 12/23-1/3/25 -- **Christmas Break -- NO SCHOOL**

Monday 1/6/2025 -- School resumes

Wednesday 1/8 -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am

Thursday 1/9 -- Hot chocolate sales at lunch (see details below)

Friday 1/10 -- Alpine Club begins at Crotched Mountain! (see details below)

Monday 1/13 -- Crepes sales at lunch

[CLICK HERE](#) for the **UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we



continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On the third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

Mass Schedule
CHRISTMAS
Tuesday, December 24
St. Bernard Church 4:00PM
St. Joseph Church 4:00PM
St. Joseph Church: a music prelude will begin at 3:30PM
St. Margaret Mary Church 7:00PM
Wednesday, December 25
St. Bernard Church
12:00AM Midnight Mass
9:00AM

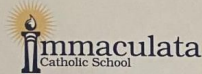
SJRS/OLMA FAMILY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

In January, we would like to put together a directory of all of the businesses owned by SJRS and OLMA families, so that we can share that information to encourage the support of those businesses within our school communities. If you own a business, please send along to Kate (kate@stjosephkeene.org) your business name and contact information that you would like to share. We will only include those businesses whose owners let us know that it is OK to do so. THANK YOU!



Yesterday the 3rd graders were hard at work, carefully wrapping their surprise Christmas gifts for their parents! Also, the students get to unwrap a gift of their own each day leading up to the break -- a special Christmas book that Ms. McGuire reads to them! Yesterday's book was *The Night of Las Posadas* by Tomie dePaola.





November 20, 2024

Saint Joseph Regional School
92 Wilson Street, Keene, New Hampshire 03431

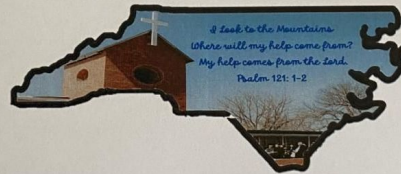
Dear Saint Joseph Regional School,

On behalf of Immaculata Catholic School, I thank you for your donation towards the Hurricane Helene Relief efforts at Immaculata in the amount of \$956. With your donation many school and parish families have been assisted during this time of need. Thank you for answering God's call to help us at this time. May God richly bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Margaret Beale

Margaret Beale
Immaculata Catholic School
Principal



Note: Pursuant to sections 170 f (8) of the Internal Revenue Code, which addresses substantiation of Charitable contributions, this is to acknowledge that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte or the Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville, NC, did not provide any goods or services in whole or partial consideration for the above contributions, or provided only intangible religious benefits.

Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please retain this letter with your yearend tax documents to substantiate your deduction.

711 N Buncombe Street | Hendersonville, NC 28791 | 828.693.3277

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL NEWS

Our SJRS Leadership Council was very busy this Christmas season. In order to raise funds to bring some Christmas joy to those in our community, our club baked 500 cookies for this year's Christmas Tree Lighting in Keene. During this annual event, Keene Kiwanis sets up a tent and provides hot chocolate for our club to distribute with our chocolate chip cookies. The community was very generous for these sweet treats and filled our donation jars to the top. Because of this generosity, Leadership Council was able to "adopt" two

children through the Hinsdale Community Assistance Program. The club purchased clothes and shoes to fulfill the wishlists of a 13-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl. Pajamas were also purchased to support our Girl Scout troop's pajamas drive for Feeding Tiny Tummies. In addition, a \$100 donation was made to our Knights of Columbus coat drive. Thank you to all those who support our SJRS Leadership Council. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Leadership Council Presents

HOT CHOCOLATE

Hot Cocoa Candy Canes Whipped Cream

Thursdays at Lunch during January!
\$1 Per Cup



Yesterday in the Preschool, it was **Breakfast in Bethlehem!** Our Mass lectors dressed in costume and did a short pantomime storytelling of Jesus' birth with our youngest students. Following that, Father Alan read *The First Christmas Night* to them. Then everyone celebrated with mini waffles with maple syrup!



Special guest actor Arie Rodanas as baby Jesus!

ORIGINAL WORKS ORDERS ARE HERE!

For all those who ordered from Original Works last month, please be sure to pick up your order ASAP. **All orders are at the bottom of the stairwell as you enter the Middle School cafeteria/Extended Day area.** The orders are organized by grade. Simply look for your child's name when you are



picking up. Be sure to check the table as well as the small shelf above the tables (mugs are on the shelf). You may pick up anytime.

It's not too late to order from Original Work s! Our Late **Order deadline has been extended to January 5!** **CLICK HERE to access the SJRS Gallery** Each student received a unique access code, but you can also access the shop by school and student name.

All Late Orders will be delivered to school, BUT they will not be here in time for Christmas. If you have questions, please contact Jen Marshall (jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org).



Today the French Club hosted their last event of 2024 -- a **Christmas Cookie Contest!** The judges were Miss Farrington, Ms. Miller, Mr. Konopka, and Ms. Foder. The event was organized by Madame Winterbottom along with the French Club officers. The 11 cookie entries were all judged on taste, appearance, creativity, and Christmas spirit. The winners were: 1st Place--Aoife Bailey (Santa's Reindeer); 2nd Place--Lucia and Serafina Blanchard (Dutch Christmas); and 3rd Place--Helena and Eva Morrison (Chocolate peppermint reindeer cookies). CONGRATULATIONS to all! So many delicious cookies!

SJRS/OLMA ALPINE CLUB NEWS from club coordinator Wendy Petschik

Don't forget to sign up for the SJRS/OLMA Alpine Club for another fun season of skiing and riding with the Slope Days Program at Crotched Mountain! All SJRS and OLMA students ages 7-18 are welcome—there are no capacity limits so we can accommodate anyone who wants to join us. **The Program begins Friday, January 10th. Sign up today!**



If you haven't already added your name to the Master Email Contact List, please do so using the link below to be included in our master email list.

If you already have a season pass and don't need lessons, you don't need to register through Crotched Mountain—but please still sign up on the Google Doc to receive club updates.

Master Email Contact List - use this link for Alpine Club email list:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18BJtsZusqbVvfnFtsDJXnGRQGk1COe0G0>

Crotched Mountain Slope Days Program details – USE SCHOOL CODE SJK25 to sign up

Our scheduled mountain time is Fridays with lessons starting promptly at 5:00 PM from Friday, January 10th - Friday, February 14th.

New this year – two session lengths (3 & 6 weeks) and a la carte for season pass holders

3 Week (lift/lesson/rental) \$209

6 Week (lift/lesson/rental) \$408

Use this link to sign up for the products above and enter the school code SJK25:

<https://www.crotchedmtn.com/plan-your-trip/ski-and-ride-lessons/products/slope-days>

A la cart option for season pass holders (Epic/Epic Local/Northeast Value)

3-week option, lesson: \$95

6-week option, lesson: \$189

3-week option, rental: \$79

6-week option, rental: \$158

You must call or email to register for any a la cart options at 603-842-7549 or email crotchedmtngroupsales@vailresorts.com and give them the SJK25 school code.

Detailed Instructions for How to Sign Up

To help streamline the distribution of information, I have also provided a detailed document with all the information repeated from above and instructions for signing up for the Slope Days at Crotched which can be found by clicking the link below.

Link with detailed information and sign-up instructions

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C71kV9BmoEGGo4sgbuH2tl6Jl5zsWk87E5wk_U7pPkA/edit?usp=sharing

I am so excited for snow and the slope-side fun to begin!! If you have any questions, please email Wendy Petschik at wpetschik@stjosephkeene.org.

2024 CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND PAGEANT





St. Joseph Regional School | 92 Wilson Street | Keene, NH 03431 US

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