



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



December 12, 2024

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

Dear Parents and Staff,

A few housekeeping reminders as we move into our last week before the Christmas break:

1. Please visit our lost and found rack in the SJRS cafeteria. There are so MANY good SJRS logo clothing pieces, water bottles, boots, and other items that must belong to someone. We really do not want to donate or throw them out.
2. Please review the arrival and dismissal guidelines for SJRS and OLMA. While Santa may be dashing through the snow, we do not encourage any driver to dash through our parking lot, for the safety of our students and staff. Parking is allowed on only the school side of Wilson Street, and all drivers are asked NOT to stop in the middle of a traffic line to drop off or pick up students. If your child uses a car seat or will take a few minutes to either exit or enter your car, please park instead of blocking the flow of traffic. We do not want any of our parents to be on Santa's naughty list!

For your convenience, here are the Christmas service times for our Parish:

Tuesday, December 24

St. Bernard Church at 4:00 pm with the Children's Christmas Choir  
St. Joseph Church in Hinsdale at 4:00 pm with a musical prelude at 3:30 pm  
St. Margaret Mary Church at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25

St. Bernard Church at 12:00 am, Midnight Mass  
St. Bernard Church at 9:00 am

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington  
Principal

## **LUKE 3:3-6**

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday 12/13** -- Prayer service/confessions -- 9-11 am (Grades 3-8)  
**Friday 12/13** -- Middle School Christmas Dance -- 6-8pm (Grades 6-8) (see details below)  
**Tuesday 12/17** -- Christmas Concert -- Doors open 6pm -- The Colonial Theatre (see details below)  
**Mon-Fri 12/23-1/3/25 -- Christmas Break -- NO SCHOOL**  
**Monday 1/6/2025** -- School resumes  
**Friday 1/10** -- Alpine Club begins at Crotched Mountain! (see details below)

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

made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

## SCHOOL CALENDAR



### SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace. Like the first candle, it is also purple. Often called the “Bethlehem Candle,” the second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all of the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace.

A festive Christmas dance poster. The background is green with white snowflakes. At the top, a yellow bell hangs from a string. Below it, a white archway contains the text. To the left, a yellow and red striped stocking hangs. To the right, a green gift box with a red ribbon hangs. At the bottom left, a snowman wearing a red hat and scarf is visible. At the bottom right, a yellow Christmas tree with red and blue ornaments is shown. A small red starburst graphic says 'SONG SUGGESTION SHEET IS AVAILABLE'.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PERSENTS

# CHRISTMAS DANCE

CHIPS, DESSERT, AND WATER  
CHRISTMAS MUSIC & FUN

**13 DEC** | 6:00 TO 8:00 PM  
GRADES 6-8  
\$5 in Christmas Colors  
\$7 if not (BORING!)

HOPE EVERYONE HAS A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS!  
- LEADERSHIP COUINCIL

SONG SUGGESTION SHEET IS AVAILABLE



Our annual **Christmas Concert and Pageant** is coming next week!  
Tuesday, December 17 -- The Colonial Theatre, 95 Main Street, Keene  
Doors open: 6:00pm; show starts: 6:30pm  
Tickets: \$10 each

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We really need several more volunteers to help us move our risers and other items from the school to the theatre on Tuesday morning (12/17) at 9:00am, and then back from the theatre to school on Wednesday morning (12/18) at 9:00am. If you can help out on either day or both days, please email Kate as soon as possible ([kate@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:kate@stjosephkeene.org)). Thank you!!!

**All SJRS students in grades PK-8 will be performing in the show**, therefore students DO NOT need a ticket. All students should be dressed up in their "Sunday best" for the concert (except for the 4th graders who will be in their costumes for the pageant). No jeans please. Shoes should be clean and in good condition. A reminder that participation in the Christmas Concert is considered a mid-term grade for middle school students. The concert is also part of the participation grade for elementary students.

The theatre doors will open at 6:00pm. The show will start promptly at 6:30pm. Please arrive with your children on time so that we can start on time.

**Students may arrive any time between 6:00-6:20pm. All students must enter at the STAGE DOOR** on the north side of The Colonial Theatre (next to Mon Amie Jewelry). Students will be met there by SJRS staff members and taken to their seats. It would be best for you to drop off your children first, then proceed to the main theatre entrance. All those with tickets must enter at the main entrance of The Colonial Theatre on Main Street.

Tickets must be purchased IN ADVANCE through The Colonial Theatre. You may purchase tickets in person at the theatre box office (open Tues-Fri 12-5). You may also purchase tickets by calling The Colonial box office (603-352-2033) or **ONLINE HERE**.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT: VENMO ACCOUNT IS CLOSED\*\*\***

Please note that **we have closed our school Venmo account**. All payments to the school must be made via FACTS in the future. If you have questions about this, please contact Kate in the Main Office ([kate@stjosephkeene.org](mailto:kate@stjosephkeene.org)).



We are pleased to announce that three of our SJRS 8th grade students have successfully auditioned for, and have been accepted into, the **New Hampshire Band Directors Association Middle Level Honor Band Festival!** **Keagan Sweeney** (trumpet) has been accepted into the Band, **Solé Vicente-DiGiovanni** (alto sax) has been accepted into the Sax Ensemble, and **Anna Rafail** (flute) has been accepted into the Flute Ensemble. CONGRATULATIONS!

The NHBDA Middle Level Honor Band Festival is an annual event for New Hampshire middle school band students that offers them an opportunity to play with some of the best middle school musicians in the state of New Hampshire, as well as working with renowned conductors from across the country. Acceptance is audition based. The festival takes place on March 10 at Pinkerton Academy, in Derry, NH. It will be a day filled with rehearsals, culminating in an evening performance. 228 students from 46 schools auditioned; 106 students from 38 schools were accepted. We are very proud of our students on their acceptance to this prestigious event!

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Over the past few weeks...Middle school students decorated our tree for Advent with oranges for Saint Nicholas Day. We have a beautiful Nativity scene in the front hallway that was donated to the school. And the Three Wise Men -- Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar -- have been traveling through the school, visiting different classrooms each day on their journey to find the newborn King.



**Happy Saint Nicholas Day!** Last Friday, December 6, the elementary students arrived to special surprises in their classrooms -- oranges, gold coins, and candy canes! And Saint Nicholas himself (Joel Robertson, Grade 8 ) visited the 4th and 5th grade students along with Madame Winterbottom and some helpers, sharing sweet treats with everyone! **MERCI, SAINT NICHOLAS!!!**





### 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 Works! 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](mailto:jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org)).

### GIRL SCOUTS PAJAMA DRIVE

Girl Scout Troop 59010 will be hosting a **pajama drive** for Feeding Tiny Tummies! We ask that you donate **NEW** children's pajamas and place them in the gift wrapped boxes that are located in the Teacher's Lounge as well as outside the Main Office. They will be collected on December 16. Our goal is to collect 150 pajamas!



### 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/18BJtsZusqbVvfnFtsDJXnGRQGk1COe0G0d6ODXyJwU/edit?usp=sharing>

**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](mailto: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/1C7lkV9BmoEGGo4sgbuH2tl6Jl5zsWk87E5wk\\_U7pPkA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C7lkV9BmoEGGo4sgbuH2tl6Jl5zsWk87E5wk_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](mailto:wpetschik@stjosephkeene.org).



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