



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Joseph Catholic School provides a Christian Learning environment that nurtures the growth of each student in mind, body, and spirit. Our school offers unique educational experiences that provide the values, knowledge, and skills students need to be successful in life.

INCLUDED IN PACKET

- Newsletter
- December Calendar
- December Lunch Menu

COMING NEXT WEEK

11/22/25 - Saturday:

- Barney Schultz Commodore Classic

11/23/25- Sunday:

11/24/25 - Monday:

- Wear your SJS Pridewear

11/25/25 - Tuesday:

11/26/25 - Wednesday:

- **Early Dismissal - 12:30 pm - No Buses Running - Students Need Transportation**

11/27/25 - 11/29/25 Thanksgiving Break - No School

11/30/25 - Sunday:

- 1st Sunday of Advent

12/01/25 - Monday:

- Wear your SJS Pridewear
- 8th Grade Girls Basketball Night

12/02/25 - Tuesday:

- Vote for the SJS Christmas Tree - 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

12/03/25 - Wednesday:

- Early Dismissal - 2:30 pm
- Vote for the SJS Christmas Tree - 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Last Day to Purchase Speed Stacks

12/04/25 - Thursday:

12/05/25 - Friday:

- School Adoration
- 40 Hour Adoration Begins - Ends 12/8/25

From the desk of Mr. Baker

Next Sunday, November 30, marks the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year and the [Advent Season](#). Advent is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. Below is a link to this year's Advent calendar. Maybe you can use some of the information to help your family prepare.

Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world."

Pope Francis, Angelus, 2018-11-21

[Advent Calendar 2025](#)

[USCCB Liturgical Calendar 2026](#)

This Advent season, we will begin each school day with an Advent reflection and prayer. The students will also place an ornament on their room's Jesse Tree.

Looking ahead, we will have a few changes to our school calendar. As the staff prepares for our new school accreditation cycle, we will need to have an early dismissal on **Wednesday, December 10**, then again on **Monday, January 19, 2026. Dismissal will be at 12:30**. Lunch will be served on both days. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we carve out extra time for staff to work through this process.

Attention High School Students...

You are invited to attend our all-school Mass on Monday, December 8 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception - A Holy Day). If you come, you're welcome to sit with your former kindergarten student. Hope to see you here!

Now that winter weather is upon us, be sure to join our school closure app (BAND). Simply click [Here](#) to join. Please share with anyone who helps drop off or pick up your child(ren).

MILLENNIUM MADNESS WINNER

11/17/25 - #124: Congratulations to Ned Buchan. He won \$200 in cash. The winning ticket was sold by the parents of Lainey Post.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 26 - Early Dismissal 12:30 pm - North Adams Not In Session Buses Are Not Running Transportation Needed

November 27-28 - No School - Thanksgiving Break

December 8th and 9th - Santaland

December 10th - 12:30 Early Dismissal - Transportation Needed

December 16 - SJS Christmas Program - 6:30 pm

Grades K, 1, 2, and Commodore Chorus will be participating - Dress Rehearsal 1:30 pm

December 22- January 2 - Christmas Break

SANTALAND

Santaland will be on Monday, December 8th, and Tuesday, December 9th. Gifts will be \$3 each. Once again this year, we will be taking donations of gift bags (of any kind). The handled bags help ensure the students' purchases make it safely home. If you can volunteer, please text Amanda Johnson at 260-223-2502 ASAP. Your help is greatly appreciated!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We need a volunteer every other Thursday in the lunchroom and the playground. Lunch is 11:00-11:40 am, recess is 11:15-11:50 am. Please let me know if you are available to help. ehebble@sjdecatur.org or call 260-724-2765.

ST. JOE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and Commodore Chorus members are involved. The concert will be held on Tuesday, December 16th, at 6:30 pm in the St. Joe auditorium. A dress rehearsal will be held at 1:30.

MILLENNIUM MADNESS TICKETS FOR SALE

Millennium Madness tickets are available. Contact any 7th grader to purchase a ticket. If you don't know a 7th grader, you may call the school at (260)724-2765, and we will put a 7th grader in contact with you. Tickets are \$20.00, and you must be 21 to purchase.

ACCF ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE VOTING

The St. Joe Art Club would greatly appreciate it if you could find time to visit the ACCF to see their Christmas Tree and vote. This year, the Art Club decided on the theme Candy Land. They worked hard on making the ornaments and decorations to fit this theme. Go check it out.

Voting takes place on Tuesday, December 2nd and Wednesday, December 3rd, from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

COUGH DROPS

Students should not have cough drops in their possession. If you feel your child may need cough drops throughout the school day, we ask that you please provide them. Your child's teacher will keep the cough drops and dispense them as they see fit.

SPEED STACKS

The last day to purchase Speed Stacks is Wednesday, December 3rd. Follow this link to purchase [Speed Stacks](#)

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found items continue to overflow! If your child is missing a jacket, sweatshirt, shirt, bag, or even shoes, send them to the lost and found to check for it.

10TH ANNUEL FRED SCHULTZ COMMODORE CLASSIC

Saturday, November 22
8th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament
Begins at 9 am

ALL ST. JOE BASKETBALL PLAYERS

All St. Joe basketball players are invited to Girls Bellmont Night on Friday, November 21st. Wear your St. Joe Jersey and get in for FREE. Stay after the varsity game for posters and autographs. JV starts at 6, Varsity follows.

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE PARENTS

Mandatory 8th Grade Pancake and Sausage Meeting

We will be having a mandatory meeting on **Sunday, December 7th, in the auditorium at 12:15 pm**. At least one parent and your 8th-grade student need to attend. Please bring \$20 to offset the cost of supplies. We will be handing out Pancake and Sausage tickets that day as well. Remember, attendance at this meeting is mandatory.

8th Grade Parents: If you plan to chaperone the Washington, DC trip in May 2026, you will need to register online through the tour company. You do not register your student. Only parents of the 8th-grade student may chaperone. Once you have your rooming arrangements, please email Laura at lsutton@sjdecatur.org to let her know if you are in a single room or who your roommate is.

Classic Tours has online registration for the Washington, D.C. trip. Please visit their website at <http://www.ClassicToursInc.com> and click on "Find My School". You will then have the option to register online. If you do not wish to register online, you can click on the printable PDF, print the registration form, and mail it in to Classic Tours with your deposit.

Come Let Us Adore Him!



40 Hours Advent Adoration

A time of uninterrupted prayer,
reflection,
and spiritual renewal



December 5-8

Sign up for your appointment with Jesus at the church doors and in the parish hall