

St. Joseph School
25 Squire Street
New London, Connecticut 06320

"This is a holy place where we discover each other in God's love."

December 18, 2025

Dear Saint Joseph School Families,

As the Christmas season fills our hearts and our senses this year, we are once again reminded of the miracle that we are about to celebrate, the birth of a child more than 2,000 years ago that changed the world and our lives forever. As a school family we continue to experience events that challenge our faith and hearts. We are challenged by world events and by those closer to home, and yet, we look to each December as a time to celebrate what Jesus came to bring...Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. This has been our Advent journey and continues to live within our hearts the closer we come to celebrating the rebirth of Jesus into our world and lives.

When we recall the story that was told of the events of Bethlehem all those years ago, we walk with Mary and Joseph as they traveled in search of shelter, finding only a poor stable for the birth of their child. We are awed by the light and song of the angels, as they announce the Good News of Jesus' birth to the shepherds on the hillside. "Peace on earth and good will toward all." We remember the anticipation of the shepherds as they went in joy to find this Child, as well as the brightest of stars that led the Magi to carefully lay their well-chosen gifts before the Child Jesus. Each year the Story is told and each year the telling of the Story changes us, and the world around us! May we be the light and the song of Christmas, as we seek to brighten the lives of those around us with our presence.

We continue to be in awe of the small child who came to re-create the world with the hope, peace, love, and joy of His coming, and we continue to pray that these reasons for which He came will become more evident in our own lives. This small child grew to be a man who modeled the way that we must live to make our world a better place—feeding the hungry, healing the sick, consoling the lonely, giving shelter to the homeless, and welcoming the outcast. *We know, intellectually*, the difference that Jesus' life made in the world. May we, most importantly, feel in our hearts all that Christmas brings to our own lives, and the lives of those around us this year. May we celebrate its true meaning—that God loved us so much that He revealed himself to us in the person of Jesus, coming to earth to be like us.

Lessons and Carols on last Friday evening told this story with the beauty of the children's voices. This celebration is a reminder to all of us at St. Joseph School as to why we are here and why this Catholic School Ministry is so important to each of us. The words of Bishop Reidy to our children and the staff earlier in the day were exactly that. Thank you for sharing in our celebration and this story of Christmas.

May the Story we tell each and every day be the story of the joy and love of that first Christmas night. May we remember Jesus' humble birth in a stable, and in remembering may we offer the gifts that we have received as gifts to one another!

We congratulate and thank Mrs. Pizarz and our 2nd Grade class, as they shared the Christmas Story through the presence and voices of some of our younger students. Our Advent prayer concludes on December 19th, during which we will transition to our Christmas prayer. This begins at 9 a.m. for those who wish to join us.

I wish you a peace-filled and joyous Christmas celebration, one that will live on and be lived each day throughout the coming year, bringing blessings and health to your homes, special joy to your families, and God's love to each of you!

A Blessed and Joyous Christmas to All!

Marianne Cote, Principal

• **School resumes on Tuesday, January 6, 2026.**