

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 3, 2025

Dear Saint Joseph School Families,

We extend our love and prayers to Mrs. Tejera, her son John, her daughter Christina, son-in-law John, and her grandchildren Ava, Nathan, Lucas, and Ty, as they mourn the loss of their beloved son, brother, and uncle. As you are aware, many of the students and staff will be attending the funeral for Mrs. Tejera's son William at 10 a.m. on Friday. Therefore, there is NO First Friday Mass this week.

On Sunday, we began the season of Advent, the New Year of the Church calendar. Advent Prayer at school began on Monday, December 1st at 8:45 a.m. We will have Advent prayer each day, led by the classes, each taking their turn throughout the Advent season. If you wish to join us, you are very welcome to do so, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus' love renewed in our hearts and our world.

Report cards will be sent home this Friday, December 5th. This is a 12:30 dismissal day. **Santa's Workshop takes place in the school auditorium this Saturday, December 6th (also the feast of St. Nicholas) from 9 to 11 a.m. Please join us for crafts, snacks, and a visit from Santa.**

Students have been given permission to wear Christmas sweaters or sweatshirts, as well as Christmas ties for the boys throughout the Advent season, reminding us of the time of waiting for the coming of Jesus. However, we are having Mass with the Bishop on December 12th. I would like all students to be in their school ties and sweaters/sweatshirts for that day.

Our students in grades 3-5 and 8 will be attending the student performance of *The Nutcracker* at The Garde Theater, also on the 12th. Please return the permission slips for this event.

Lessons and Carols will be celebrated on December 12th at St. Joseph Church. All students are expected to be present with at least one parent or adult family member. Boys are to wear dark pants, white shirts, and Christmas ties. Girls are expected to wear dark skirts of an appropriate length with a white blouse. Footwear should be dressy, or school uniform tan bucks, or SOLID black uniform sneakers. **Students are to be in their seats at 6:15 p.m.** All coats should remain

with the adult(s) with whom they came. Thank you for helping to make this Christmas gift to you and our parishioners a beautiful one!

A **“Christmas-themed Dress-down Day”** will be held **December 9th** to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Center in Norwich. **We will be collecting Christmas toys and games for children through ages 13.** Please do not exceed \$15 per donation. These may be brought to school any time from now through December 9th.

December 18th is Home and School Association Day to provide dinner for the guests of the **New London Community Meal Center on Montauk Avenue**, as each of us is called by Jesus to feed the hungry of the world. There is also a need for volunteers to help serve. The food items provided include meatballs or sausage and sauce with rolls (provided by the staff), garden salad, mac and cheese, pasta salad, mixed vegetables, and rice. The second grade usually makes and decorates Christmas cookies at school for dessert. Please consult the Home and School Chair of this event for further information.

Grade 2 will present the Christmas play on December 18th at 1 p.m. Our Christmas prayer will take place on December 19th at 9 a.m. in the auditorium.

With the cold weather, please remember that students still go outside and will need to wear coats (not just sweatshirts), hats and gloves or mittens. We are mindful of wind-chill factors and check them daily. **In the event of cancellations, late openings, or early closings due to weather conditions**, you will receive an email or text message from the school. You may also check WFSB TV (Channel 3) for this information.

In our Advent song “Light One Candle” we are reminded of the meaning of each of the four candles on the Advent wreath - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. May these words guide our Advent journey toward Christmas.

God Bless You,

Marianne Cote
Principal