

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

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

February 11, 2026

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

This morning at prayer we talked with the children about Sunday's Gospel reading. For those who were unable to hear it, the Gospel was from Matthew, "You are the light of the world. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl, but instead it is put on a lamp stand, where it gives light for everyone. Your light must shine for all people so they will see the good you do and give glory to our Father in heaven." It is our work to be light for others! How do we do that? We are light when we are kind and respectful of others and when we give of our time, treasure, and talent for good. As I look around here at school, I see teachers modeling this for the children and the children for one another. At our fun and fundraising activities, I see many parents joining in and modeling this for other parents and for the children. Unfortunately, we are not seeing all parents doing this for their children. It has been suggested that those who do not give volunteer hours to our activities be assessed a \$250 fee. This is something I have been reluctant to do; however, more recently, I am inclined to feel that this may be a very good idea. We are currently trying to raise funds for our playground renovation. This is not an inexpensive undertaking, and yet **we have not been able to find a chair for our next fundraiser, the St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Tea**, which is about a month away. If volunteers do not come forward, a long-time tradition will have to be cancelled. This means a loss of playground and field trip funding. Anyone wishing to take this on should call the school office immediately. **We are also in need of lunch duty helpers for Fridays.**

I remind you that **"Donuts with Dads" is this Friday, February 13th.** It is necessary that we know who is coming to be assured that we have ordered enough donuts. The deadline has passed, but if you let us know, we will be sure you are taken care of along with your child.

Catholic Foundation Scholarship Applications are due by March 1st. Many of you received financial assistance from the fund last year. Please do not forget to apply this year. If you did not apply last year, you must apply this year or no additional assistance can be given. Please look for the flyer that went home yesterday and was emailed.

The school sent chocolate bars home last week. This is a new batch of bars and includes a "pretzel bar". As with all things (especially chocolate), the cost has increased to \$2.00 per bar. The cost per box is \$80. The money earned from the fundraiser will be set aside for the playground. We are in need of **everyone's help** to make this new playground a reality!

Our 8th graders understand well the call to be light for others. This week they have planned an activity for the students to join in in the "raising" of the new playground. "Penny Wars" is intended to help with

the playground funding. Each class has a bucket for donations. Fill their bucket with silver or paper money. Pennies will erase from their total. They can put their pennies in someone else's but to lower the other classes' totals.

Friday will be a casual day. L+M Hospital has asked for donations of coloring Books, crayons, and colored pencils for the children who are at the hospital. We will be collecting these items on Thursday and Friday of this week and the Monday after vacation. Please help us to "be light" for others.

Some reminders for this new year include the following.

- **On February 12th Bishop Reidy will be visiting our classes. Full uniform, please. No 8:45 Mass on this day.**
- **On February 13th at 7:30 a.m. our annual "Donuts with Dads" takes place. Please send in your reservation on the form provided.**
- **February 26 Paid pizza lunch. Mass at 8:45.**
- **When school is closed due to a weather event, you will be notified through a text message, email, and on Channel 3 (WFSB) and 30. (WVIT) Please check your messages. Please do not call the school, as no one will be in the building on those days for safety reasons.**

We continue to keep everyone in our prayers. May God bless everyone and keep us safe in this snowy and frigid weather.

Marianne Cote, Principal