

**Saint Joseph School
25 Squire Street
New London, Connecticut 06320**

“This is a holy place where we discover each other in God’s love.”

October 29, 2025

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

October is almost behind us and as we approach All Hallows Eve, known to us as Halloween, we also look to Saturday, the day of All Saints, followed by the day of All Souls. All Saints Day is a time to celebrate all the saints in heaven, all those who have arrived in the presence of God in his kingdom. In some traditions, the Day of the Dead is celebrated in remembrance of all those we loved in this life and continue to love as they journey on to the next. As we transition from October into November, let us pray for the souls of those who have passed, and let us pray that all the saints in heaven will watch over us here on earth.

Reminders: **Our Thursday Masses** begin at 8:45 a.m. As soon as the children have arrived, the doors are secured. **Our Grade 5 play** will be performed on Friday at 1 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Parents may not post pictures of anyone other than their own children to personal social media pages. We have a confidential list of students whose parents do not wish their children to be seen in this way. The teachers will take pictures and after checking our list will send them to be posted on the school’s page. Also, the younger students do require a morning snack. This is the parents’ responsibility to provide, as well as lunch at the appropriate time. Grades 6-8 eat lunch at 11:30 a.m., grades 3-5 at 11:50 a.m. and grades K-2 at 12:10 p.m. Thank you for your help.

We thank all who assisted with our annual Halloween Party, and especially our chairs of the event, Erik Flaucher and Ashley Higgins. We extend a special thank you to Gillian Egan and our 8th Grade class for their help. Many hands make light work! We thank you all for your donations and assistance at our party.

On Halloween, October 31st, since we have a play, students are expected to wear their uniforms, but may wear their Halloween shirts with their uniforms.

Thank you for supporting the pie fundraiser, sponsored by the Home and School Association (of which you are all members) and chaired by Alex Nocito. **Pie delivery** will be the week before Thanksgiving. Thank you for your help in raising money for our playground (planning in process) and field trip funds. The total amount raised through this fundraiser is yet to be determined.

Most of our chocolate bars have been sold. There are a few more boxes left in the event that someone wishes to sell another. Approximately, \$3000 has been raised for student activities and our playground fund. For those who are not aware, Home and School fundraising is ongoing and serves many purposes. The school has ongoing expenses to provide additional things for our students and families that cannot be provided for in the regular school budget. These include major projects such as the playground renewal and field trip assistance; as well as Catholic Schools' Week and Games Day activities, gifts for special occasions, and extras for the classrooms, First Communion and Graduation. A more detailed report will be forthcoming in January.

While the New London Superintendent and Board of Education have agreed to provide us with a part time nurse's position, they seem to think that children become ill or injured only from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. We continue to ask you to contact the office of New London's Superintendent, the Members of the Board of Education, the City Council members and Mayor Passero in any way possible to share your displeasure with this situation. These entities need to meet their legal and moral obligations to the children and families of St. Joseph School. Over 70% of our families reside in New London. We are confident that our persistence and perseverance will ultimately be successful.

I wish to remind all parents that if you are planning to volunteer in anyway with the children this year, you must be **approved by the Office for Safe Environments**. This means completing the training online and submitting the necessary paperwork. Many of you have done this already. **The Diocesan requirements must be completed by November 15, 2025** to qualify for any activities in the current school year through June 2026. I remind those who completed the training three or more years ago that you must now complete the online **refresher training to remain qualified**.

Please continue to keep everyone in your prayers, as we keep you in ours.

God's Blessings to All,

Marianne Cote, Principal