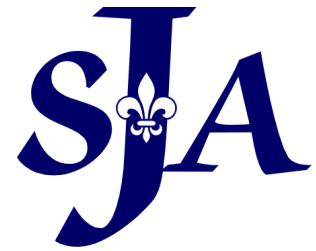


St. Joan of Arc School

Parent Newsletter



November 27, 2024

Dear SJA Parents and Family Members,

First, I want to wish each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving. Enjoy this wonderful holiday in which we are invited to ponder all of the good things – faith, family, friends, health, etc. – which God has given us. It is a great time to enjoy being with those we love most.

Second, I want to make you aware that next week, we will be having our first lockdown drill. These drills are mandated by the State of Maryland, and we are responsible to have three per year. Because there is a chance it will make your child anxious, please discuss with him or her before they return next week that we will be having this drill, that their teacher will be reviewing procedures early next week so that students are ready. When I announce this drill, I will let the students know it is a drill, and I will remind you after it is over that we have done it, so that you can be aware if your child is experiencing any anxiety afterward.

Finally, we will begin various activities to celebrate Advent next week and to prepare for Christmas. On Thursday, December 5, in the afternoon, students in grades 3 through 8 will have the opportunity to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Please encourage your child to take advantage of this opportunity to prepare to greet the Savior at Christmas.

Thank you, and Happy Thanksgiving,
Joseph Schmitz
Principal.

Important Dates

- **Nov 27-29** Closed for Thanksgiving Break
- **Dec 1** 11:15 Family Mass
- **Dec 4** 8th grade High school Placement Test
- **Dec 12** Christmas Concert 6-8pm
- **Dec 13** Jingle Bell Shop
- **Dec 19** Dress down day/ Class parties @ 2:00pm

- **Dec 20** Living Nativity @ 10 am Half day dismissal 12:05 No aftercare
- **Dec 23- Jan1** School Closed for Christmas Break
- **Jan 2-** Back to school

Hot Lunch

There will be hot lunch next week, Wednesday December 4th. The order form will go out Thursday morning 11/28/24 at 8 am. All orders MUST be in by 8am on Monday, December 2nd. There are no exceptions. This is also a reminder, the salad is a full size salad not a side salad. Please keep this in mind when ordering. The students really enjoyed lunch the other week and we look forward to being able to continue this each week.

1st Trimester Survey

As the 1st trimester comes to a close and a new one begins soon, we want to hear from you. We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on how we can improve! Please know that this is a quick anonymous survey. Thank you in advance for your participation.

<https://forms.gle/SDbfMzJL3ivSw57N8>

Gentle Reminder

Student birthdays, understand we know birthdays are special. We ask that no birthday treats be brought into the classroom. This is to be cautious for those with food allergies. Your student's teacher can acknowledge their birthday in class.

Grant & Aid

The 2025-2026 Grant & Aid Applications opened on November 1,2024. You may access the application by clicking [here](#). Please be sure to complete the application early as the deadline is February 28, 2024 **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Should you have any questions please contact Mrs Pam Franke at pfranke@stjoanarc.org.

Christmas Concert

Thursday December 12, we will be having our Annual Christmas concert in the church. Your student's teacher will be sending home details about the evening, please check your email.

Emergency & Weather related Closings/Delayed Openings

St. Joan of Arc School follows the same procedures for school closing and delays as does the Harford County Public School System. If Harford County schools close early because of inclement weather, SJA will do the same. Extended Care will not open on days when school is closed. Morning Care will not be open when school is opening late. If school is dismissed early, Extended Care will be opened until 1 hour after dismissal.

Christmas Giving ~ Gift Card Donations

The Sunshine Committee with help from all you is sponsoring some local families and some from Harford Family House again this year for Christmas. We had such a great response from all of you, we are hoping for the same this year.

We will be accepting gift card donations of any denomination from Amazon, Target or Walmart. REMEMBER, *RAISE RIGHT IS A GREAT SOURCE FOR PHYSICAL GIFT CARDS- PLUS YOU SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL IN THE PROCESS!!!*

Your donations will help make someone's Christmas very special. Please consider donating and send your donations to school by **Wednesday, December 4th** to the attention of 'The Sunshine Committee.'

Thank you for your help in spreading kindness and joy this Holiday Season!

HSA

 **Jingle Bell Shop will be December 13th. Save the date!!** 
Sign up to [donate](#) or to [volunteer](#) the day of

RaiseRight Fundraiser

See flyer for Dazzle Days bonus event starting Nov. 30. EGift cards are available to purchase anytime for immediate use.

If you do not have an account yet, go to RaiseRight.com to get started and use enrollment code A9C13C7351446 to earn for SJA.

Join us for Family Mass Dec 1st at 11:15 mass.

Join us Saturday, December 7th for the Annual Aberdeen Christmas Parade. We anticipate line-up at 2:30pm, and the parade should start at 3pm. We will meet on Law Street. As the parade gets closer we will let you know a time and place to meet. If you're looking for more info is available on the City of Aberdeen website: <https://www.aberdeenmainstreet.org/>

The theme this year is Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, and we will have a walking group representing the Pastorate. We encourage all families to dress for the weather and wear something festive or suiting the theme - especially anything that represents the Island of Misfit Toys or any of the characters from the Rudolph movie (just not Santa!).

ADVENT BREAKFAST

Do you like a hearty breakfast?

On Sunday December 1st the Knights of Columbus will be cooking up our annual Advent Breakfast! The menu will include Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Mixed Fruit, Juice, Coffee and Tea!

Breakfast will start at 9 AM and go until 11 AM downstairs in the Church Hall, so stay late after 8:30

Mass or come early for the 11:15 Family Mass and hear the children sing!

Tickets will be available at the door - cash or checks only so come prepared. Prices are: Adults \$7;

Children (10 and under) \$4; and \$25 for a family ticket.

Great food, great friends, great times with your parish community ... we can't wait to see you there!

Track it Forward

Please be sure to log your hours into Track it forward as you volunteer or donate items to school. There are many opportunities for volunteer hours on [Track it Forward](#). Please be mindful that families need 20 hours for the year. We are in need of reams of paper for our school. Please send it to the office when brought in.

Dazzle DAYS

NOV 30 - DEC 13

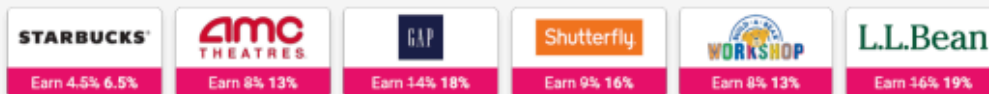
Two weeks of bonuses on eGift cards AND physical gift cards

It's the most wonderful time of the year—for earning, that is. Take your holiday budget further and earn even more with bonuses on popular brands for holiday shopping. Plus, watch your email and Facebook for daily surprise flash bonuses.

Things to know:

- Bonuses start on November 30 at 12:00 am ET and run through December 13 at 11:59 pm ET
- See which brands are on bonus in the app or online at [RaiseRight.com](https://www.RaiseRight.com)
- Watch for daily surprise flash bonuses too, revealed in your email and on Facebook

Includes 150+ popular brands



+MORE

How to participate



Already have a RaiseRight participant account?

View and shop bonuses Nov 30 - Dec 13 in the RaiseRight mobile app or at [RaiseRight.com](https://www.RaiseRight.com).



Don't have an account yet?

Follow the easy steps to get started at [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](https://www.RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning).

Check with your program coordinator to get your organization's unique enrollment code.



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CHRISTMAS IN ABERDEEN

Starting, Friday, November 29th



SCAN EVENTS

INTERACTIVE LIGHT DISPLAY, FESTIVAL OF TREES, BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, CRAFT FAIR, PARADE, TREE LIGHTING AND MORE! SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DATES AND TIMES



Fri-Sun Starting
November 29th
Ripken Stadium
873 Long Dr.
Aberdeen, Md.

TB3 Event Center
203 W. Bel Air Ave.
Aberdeen, Md.

47th Christmas
Street Parade
Downtown Aberdeen



For more information
email: vhorne@aberdennmd.gov
www.aberdennmainstreet.org

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church | Knights of Columbus

PRESENT



Sunday, December 1 | 9 - 11 AM

Tickets at the door

Adults \$7 | Kids Under 10 \$4 | Family \$25

Family Mass



1 | DEC
2024

11:15 AM





GET READY FOR OUR

Holiday JINGLE BELL *Shoppe*

FRIDAY DEC 13TH

GIVE YOUR CHILD THE JOY OF
SELECTING THEIR OWN HOLIDAY
GIFTS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

What's special about our holiday shoppe?

- Affordable gifts for the whole family
 - Helpful volunteers to assist shoppers
 - Gifts wrapped on the spot
 - Safe, supervised shopping environment
- All proceeds support our school programs

STAY TUNED FOR
PRICING DETAILS!