



# Notes from Mrs. Nash

*Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts.*

St. John Fisher School

November 15, 2019

Dear SJF Families,

Today marks the end of the first trimester. I cannot believe how quickly this year is going. I am eager to reflect on this past trimester to identify things we have done well and consider ways to improve as our school year moves forward. Next week you can anticipate a snapshot of all of the accomplishments from this past trimester. I am so proud of the hard work that our students have demonstrated thus far both in and out of the classroom. Our dedicated teachers not only support our students each and every day, but they challenge, encourage and guide them to reach the highest of expectations. And of course, we certainly wouldn't be here if it weren't for all of you. Thank you for making the great sacrifice to send your children to our school and for partnering with us, so that together we can build them a strong foundation. We want to ensure your children will be critical and independent thinkers who possess integrity and have a strong sense of self along with empathy for others. These qualities will help pave a successful road on their journeys beyond SJF. As we enter into the second trimester next week, I am grateful to begin with a clean slate, starting fresh and stronger than before!

As always, thank you so much for your continued support of Catholic education, but specifically, St. John Fisher.

In unity and hope,

*-Mrs. Maura Nash*



## Important Announcements



I would like to give a warm welcome to Mrs. Karen Brogan who will be joining our Resource Department. Mrs. Brogan lives in Oak Lawn with her husband and three children who attend St. Catherine's. Mrs. Brogan has 10 years of teaching experience in CPS both in the special education and regular education setting. Mrs. Brogan has a Masters in Special Education and is a licensed Behavioral Specialist. Mrs. Brogan will be in the building on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We are so excited and fortunate to have Mrs. Brogan join our staff!

- **St. John Fisher Garden Flags are FOR SALE - \$15!** Just in time for Christmas, flags will be sold after the 10am mass on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, or you can send \$15 in an envelope with your child to the office and we will send it home. Thank you for your generosity and support.
- **GET YOUR SJF SWAG!** Our online store has updated apparel (our new logo & the falcon) for kids and adults. **All orders placed by 12/6 are guaranteed deliver to your door for Christmas. And 5% of each order goes back to the FSA.** Get yours today and Flaunt that Fisher Pride!  
[https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/st-john-fisher-school?\\_k=sif3am](https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/st-john-fisher-school?_k=sif3am)
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences** are November 25<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 and 5-8 & 26<sup>th</sup> from 12-2. You should have received the schedule link online. If you need assistance scheduling your conference, please reach out to Mrs. Spadoni, [kspadoni@sjfschool.net](mailto:kspadoni@sjfschool.net) or Mrs. Maxwell, [dmaxwell@sjfschool.net](mailto:dmaxwell@sjfschool.net).
- **DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> there is NO SCHOOL for STUDENTS** due to a Faculty In-service. This day is not on the calendar; we apologize for the confusion!
- **Counseling Update:** Mrs. Carey facilitated a workshop for our junior high girls recently addressing the dangers of social media and the impact it can have on one's self-esteem. In addition, last week Mrs. Carey and Mrs. Biernacki (resource teacher), facilitated a workshop for our faculty discussing classroom accommodations and tools we can be using to better serve our students with anxiety and ADHD. Please visit Mrs. Carey's blog to see the presentations and learn more about these growing trends in students today, [www.sjfschool.net/blogs/mrs-nichole-carey-counselor](http://www.sjfschool.net/blogs/mrs-nichole-carey-counselor).
- **Please be careful driving and dropping off your children in the morning.** As the winter weather is upon us, many more students are getting rides to school. We recognize the congestion around the perimeter of the building and we understand many people are in a hurry. Please, please, please be patient and mindful of those around you. We are working to find a solution to this issue. **Thank you for driving slowly and safely on campus!**
- **Early Dropoff:** Please be mindful of dropping off your children too early during the inclement weather. Our extended day is always available to utilize throughout the week. Please let us know if you have questions. Thank you!
- **GOT MILK?** Our milk only option is now available for you to order for the entire year.
- **The December lunch menu** is open for ordering.
- **Don't forget to check your student's teacher blog @ [www.sjfschool.net](http://www.sjfschool.net)** for the latest and greatest information from your child's class. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns!

- ***Forgotten student items:*** homework and lunches – please partner with us and resist the urge to drop off your students' forgotten items at school as we continue to encourage independence and accountability. Thank you so much for your cooperation!
- ***We invite and welcome your feedback.*** If you have a question regarding your child's education, **please reach out directly to your son or daughter's teacher.** If you need further support, contact Mrs. Larmon, [clarmon@sjfschool.net](mailto:clarmon@sjfschool.net), Mrs. Carey, [ncarey@sjfschool.net](mailto:ncarey@sjfschool.net), or Mrs. Nash [mnash@sjfschool.net](mailto:mnash@sjfschool.net). *We are so happy and grateful to partner with you in order to best serve your children!*

## Peek at the Week

Friday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Veteran's Day</b> Prayer Service Celebration</li> <li>• <b>End of the First Trimester</b></li> </ul>
Saturday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Friendsgiving ETC 9-12</b></li> </ul>
Sunday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Please join us for Mass: 4pm on Saturday, 8, 10, 12 &amp; 5:30 on Sunday</i></li> </ul>
Monday, November 18 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Trimester Begins</li> <li>• <b>Science Lab ETC</b></li> </ul>
Tuesday, November 19 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Turkey Bowl ETC</b></li> <li>• <b>HSPT Test Prep 3-4pm</b></li> <li>• <b>Homework Club 2:30-3pm</b> St. Rita Tutors on campus</li> </ul>
Wednesday, November 20 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report Cards sent home today</li> <li>• <b>Friendsgiving Club &amp; Basketball ETC</b></li> <li>• <b>HSPT Test Prep 3-4pm</b></li> <li>• <b>Homework Club 2:30-3pm</b></li> </ul>
Thursday, November 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children's Choir Practice @ 3:45</i></li> </ul>



**It's a new day, fresh start, fresh energy, new opportunities. Get your mind right, be thankful, be positive and start your day right.**





# FALCON OF THE WEEK

Evan Dowling, 1st grade



- SJF's "Falcon of the Week" is 1st grader, **Evan Dowling.**
- This year, our school theme is "Fly Like a Falcon." At school, we are intentionally discussing what it means to be a falcon.
- Falcons soar above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. We are encouraging our school community to "soar above" things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves. We are on a school-wide crusade to "Fly Like a Falcon," lifting one another up, celebrating the positive interactions and kind behavior that our students demonstrate each and every day. This week Evan Dowling was nominated to be our "Falcon of the Week". It was reported to me that Evan is beyond deserving of this recognition as he is a constant source of

positivity both in and out of the classroom. Throughout the year, many teachers in the school have approached me to tell me about how wonderful Evan is. The teachers have shared that Evan always encourages his peers. He is quick to give a high five or a hug and always shares everything he has with his classmates. He includes everyone. He is always willing to help his teachers and friends and is incredibly polite while doing so. When I was talking to Evan about what I learned about him, I asked him what his secret was. Evan told me, "It's easy. I always try my best and try to do the right thing. I never give up on anybody and never give up on being kind." Words to live by! Thank you, Evan, for being an inspiration to me and your school community. Keep "Flying like a Falcon", Evan; you're making a difference!





ST. JOHN FISHER  
SCHOOL



**Congratulations** to our **Junior High Scholastic Team** on their  
**2nd place victory at the Loyola Academy Tournament!**



# All Saints Day 2019



Hosted by 6th Graders!



Eighth grade server



Our Sixth graders leading the students in a Litany of the Saints. Happy All Saints Day to all! ➡





**Sixth Grade: Preparing for All Saints Day (Hallowed Day) on the day before: Hallowed Eve (aka Halloween).**

**First Reading: Revelation**

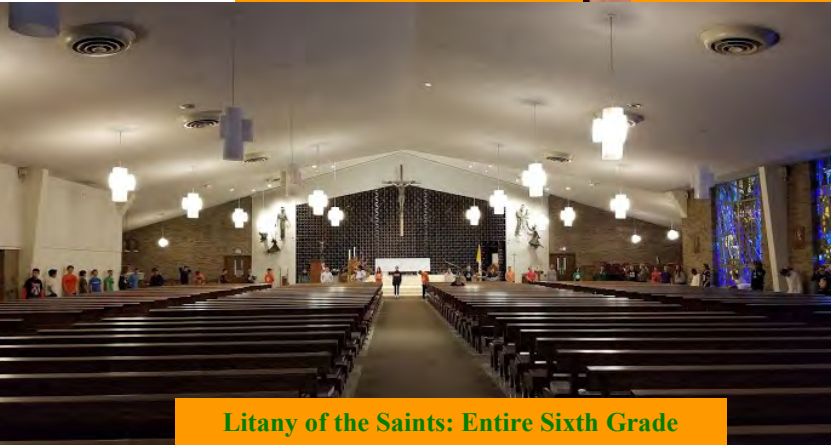


**Prayer of the Faithful**



**Mrs. Quinn  
Religion teacher**

**Second reading from the first Letter of Saint John**



**Litany of the Saints: Entire Sixth Grade**



**Ms. Chermak with students**



**Sixth Grade: Halloween!**



**Explanation of All Saints Day Activities**

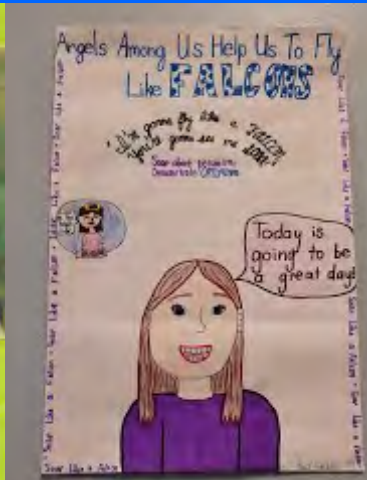
**Happy All Saints Day, 2019!**



Student art adorns our halls and inspires our action.  
 Students reflected on the “saints” in their everyday lives. This is a sampling on display on our school bridge:



My living saint is my dad, Eugene. My dad is a living saint because he is very strong and funny. He is very strong because he can deal with anything and he can carry anything. My dad is very funny because whenever someone is sad or mad he can make them happy and laugh. I think my dad deserves to be a living saint.



Emmanuel Fernandez

My brother is my saint. I chose my brother Emmanuel or Manny. I chose my brother because he is kind, funny, and holy. He is kind because he helps people if they need help with anything or just someone to talk to. He is funny because even on the darkest days he will make puns out of any word like "Isn't this egg-cing!" Lastly, my brother is holy because sometimes he likes to tell stories of what Jesus did back when he was alive and he loves to go to church.



My Living Saint is my grandma, Erica. Three qualities that make her so special to me are: she cares for everyone like they are her children. She is so useful, she will clean, fold laundry, and when I come home from school she would be waiting there with a plate of strawberries for me. She can do anything. Also, she is so kind, funny, smart, and so much more. She is from Germany so she knows two languages. We call her Oma because Oma means Grandma in German. Another reason she is my living saint is because she is a retired nurse. When I was little and got a scrape she would get out her first aid kit and fix my cut. My Oma is truly my living saint.



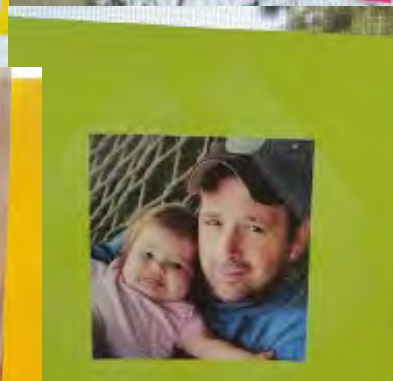
My Saint is my Grandma, Mary. Three qualities that make her a Saint to me are: She was very Kind to everyone at all times. She was always Happy and Grateful, and most of all She Loved us very much. These qualities make her a Saint to me. She will always be with me.



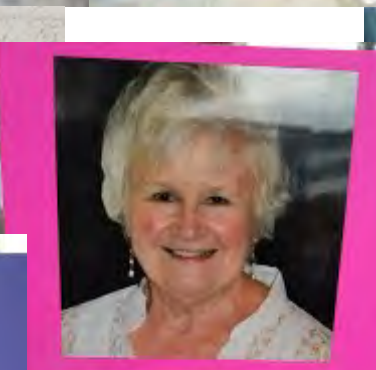
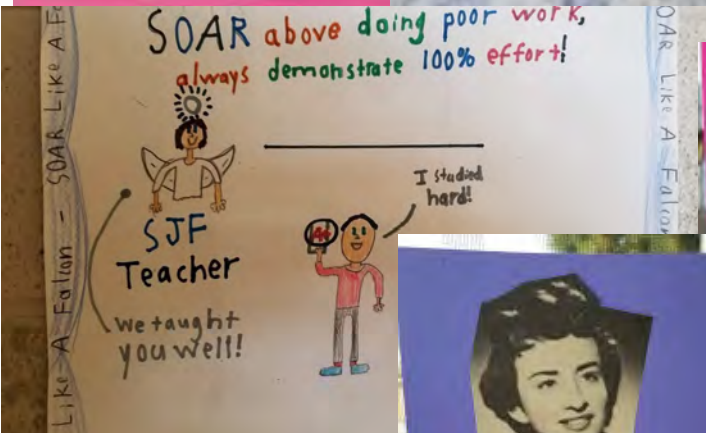
My saint is my Great Aunt Hazel. Hazel is a saint because she is kind to me and she is very thoughtful. Hazel is a saint to me because she can afford for our six siblings' college expenses. She can afford for our six siblings' college expenses. She can afford for our six siblings' college expenses. She can afford for our six siblings' college expenses.



My saint is my grandma, Effie. My grandma is a living saint because she is caring, thoughtful, and holy. She is caring because she will watch me or my cousins if our parents are gone. Also, she is thoughtful because every time we come to her house she makes sure that we are fed and if not she would feed us. She makes sure that we are feeling well too. Finally, my grandma is holy because she goes to church and lives her life as a follower of Jesus Christ. These reasons are why my grandma is a real-life saint.



My dad is a living saint because he is so loving, fun, and always wants to make me happy. He is loving because he always wants to make sure we are okay and makes me smile. My dad is fun because he takes us places and really enjoys what we enjoy. He always wants me to be happy because when I had a bad day he can cheer me up! This is why my dad is a living saint. I love my dad.



My saint is my great-grandma Jackie. Three of the qualities that make her a saint are: she was very generous because she gave all of her grandchildren very thoughtful things for special occasions. She was also a very loving person to all of her family members. Jackie was very thoughtful. She believed in God and she believed in all of her family. That is why I think my grandpa Jackie was a saint. She is in heaven now with all of these qualities that will make her a saint. I can't wait to see her in heaven.



My living saint is my grandma, Jackie. Three qualities that make her a saint to me are: she is always kind, she is very holy, and she always comes for me. These things make her a saint to me. She is living among me and many other saints. I love my grandma with all of my heart.

Parents, Grandparents, Great-Grandparents, Siblings, Friends: All are saints inspiring Christ's loving kindness for our students.



**SJF**

# **GARDEN FLAGS**

## **FOR SALE**

**GARDEN FLAGS ARE FOR  
PURCHASE FOR \$15**

- **AFTER 10AM MASS**
- **IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE, SEND  
YOUR \$15 IN AN ENVELOPE WITH  
YOUR STUDENT AND WE WILL SEND  
IT HOME**

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF  
OUR SCHOOL. FLAUNT THAT  
FISHER PRIDE!***



# St. John Fisher SWAG!

**SJF'S ONLINE STORE HAS UPDATED APPAREL FOR KIDS AND ADULTS!**

- **ALL ORDERS PLACED BY 12.6 ARE GUARANTEED DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR BY CHRISTMAS.**
- **5% OF EACH ORDER GOES BACK TO THE FSA.**
- **[HTTPS://TEAMLOCKER.SQUADLOCKER.COM/#/LOCKERS/ST-JOHN-FISHER-SCHOOL?K=SIF3AM](https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/st-john-fisher-school?k=sif3am)**
- **FLAUNT THAT FISHER PRIDE TODAY!**





# ST. JOHN FISHER COMMUNITY

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



### PRO LABORE DEI THANKSGIVING

We are collecting Thanksgiving meal bags for the families in Robbins again.

Shopping bags will be provided at the back of church with a list of Thanksgiving food items attached, or feel free to use your own. If you are unable to shop, but would like to help, please send in donation (suggested \$20, attention "Pro Labore Dei/ Rectory") and we'll do the shopping. Please drop off all items no later than November 22nd at the rectory.

#### Please provide:

- 2 cans Corn
- 2 cans of Sweet Potatoes or Yams
- 2 cans of Green Beans or Peas
- 2 cans of Cranberry Sauce
- 2 cans of Gravy
- 2 boxes of Stuffing Mix
- Large Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Non-perishable dessert items (cookies, boxes of puddings, etc.)
- Any other items that you would like that may help our families to enjoy a happy and festive Thanksgiving.

PLD's territory has increased so we have many more families to feed. If you have any questions please contact Pam Pisarczyk O'Mara (773) 612-0281 or Bridget (773) 852-4698, [bridget.stalla@gmail.com](mailto:bridget.stalla@gmail.com).

**St John Fisher FSA**  
**Family Advent Wreath Event**  
**Sunday, December 1, 2019**  
**After 10 AM Mass (~11 AM – 1 PM)**



**Sunday, December 1st, St. Nick's Mass (10 AM), Christmas Toy/ Gift Drive starts!**

Come celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent with St. Nick!  
Bring a wrapped toy for our Pro Labore Dei Toy Drive to give to St. Nick at the 10 AM Mass.



Please note on the "To/ From" tag appropriate age, and if applicable, gender to give to St. Nick to deliver! Pictures are welcome with St. Nick after Mass, and St. Nick will have a special treat for all kids. (Suggested age ranges: 0-2 years, 3-4 years, 5-8 years, 9-12 years, teen (gift cards welcome, such as McDonalds, Walgreens, Subway, CVS, AMC).



Giving tree benefiting Pro Labore Dei with suggested gift recipients will also be available in back of church to inspire your Christmas Spirit, due in rectory by 12/13. Email [bridget.stalla@gmail.com](mailto:bridget.stalla@gmail.com) or call Pam O'Mara (773) 612-0281 to help distribute on 12/14.



After the St. Nick's Mass, join us in Kane Hall to make your own fresh **evergreen Advent wreath** for your home. All supplies (including wreath, greens, candles, prayers) and refreshments will be provided; Christmas Spirit, too!

A limited number of wreaths are available, so please reserve yours today!

You can **prepay \$30** by cash, check to "St John Fisher FSA", or by Venmo or Zelle (email or text [bridget.stalla@gmail.com/773-852-4698](mailto:bridget.stalla@gmail.com/773-852-4698)). Please send Form and payment to school office by Monday, 11/25 or to SJF Rectory by Wed., 11/27.

**\$30 / Wreath pre-paid before 11/27**

Or you can email ([fsaatSJF@gmail.com](mailto:fsaatSJF@gmail.com)) or / text (773-852-4698) your RSVP and pay at the door:

**\$35/ Wreath paid at the door – CHECK OR CASH ONLY**

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To PRE-PAY return form to Rectory Office, School (11/26), or CFF Class no later than Wednesday, November 7, 2019.

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# of Wreaths \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_