

**DATES TO REMEMBER
IN DECEMBER:**

- 1st Mass @ 9AM
followed by Student of
the Month and Virtue
of the Month Assembly
- End of 1st Trimester
- 6th Book Fair
- 7th Book Fair
- 8th Feast of the
Immaculate
Conception: Mass @
9AM
 - Snacks with Santa &
Book Fair
 - 1st Trimester Report
Cards
- 12th SOS Meeting @
7PM
- 13th Christmas Concert
@ 6:30 PM
- 15th Mass @ 9AM
 - 1st Trimester Honor
Roll
 - Confessions for
grades 3-6
 - Subway Day
- School Spelling Bee
@ 1:00 PM
- 22nd: No School:
Christmas Vacation
begins



St. Joseph Regional School

December 2023



Dear St. Joseph Regional
School Families:

Advent begins on
Sunday, December 3rd.
For centuries, Advent
has been a time of
spiritual reflection as well
as cheer and anticipation.
Advent is the beginning
of the liturgical year and
is marked by a spirit of
preparation and longing.

I hope you will use
Advent's four weeks as a
time of prayer and

spiritual renewal. Renew
the wonder of God's
everlasting love and His
overwhelming gift to
each of us: His beloved
child.

As we approach this
wonderful time of year,
filled with joy and hope,
we renew our own faith
and grow as believers in
Jesus. I wish to express
to each of you how much
your support and
cooperation means to the
faculty and staff of St.

Joseph Regional School.
We appreciate all that
you do for us, so that we
can work together to help
your most precious gifts—
your children— best use
the talents God has given
them.

May you all have a
Blessed Christmas and a
prosperous, Happy New
Year!!

Mrs. Green

Advent Activities

The students will be
participating in a variety
of activities in their
classrooms as part of
their Religion
curriculum. Many
classes will be making
Christmas cards to
distribute locally.

Please encourage your
child to make some
personal sacrifices during
this holy season. We will
have a red kettle from

Salvation Army in the
cafeteria during the
month of December.
Your children might
consider donating a
portion of their
allowance, or do an extra
chore to earn money and
give it to those less
fortunate. It means more
if it's truly a sacrifice on
the part of the child,
rather than a hand-out
from Mom or Dad.

Our students will also go
to confession this month,
and view four Advent
Prayer Services. We hope
these activities will
remind our students to
celebrate the true reason
for the holiday season.



NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following students:

K:..... Emily Casey

5:.....Savannah Conrad

Phys.Ed:...Lexington Hurd

1: Elaina Zielonka

6.....Elliana Fava

Music.....Payton Ford

2:.....Julian Pawlak

Ms. Winiecki.....Lockwood Sutherland

3:.....Adelyn Gephart

Cafeteria.....Rowley Spencer

Art.....Emma Figlow

4: Ashton Mapes

Technology.....Ellie Meyer



Volunteers



*They don't necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart.
Thank You!*

A BIG THANK YOU TO...

- ♦ Tim D'Amico for coordinating our Special Touch pie sale. We raised \$4800 from this!
- ♦ Katie Wujcik for organizing our apparel sale.
- ♦ All of our volunteers who show up faithfully to help in the cafeteria each week:
Joyce Gahr, Josie Lambert, Rosalie Pacino, Jim Pacino, Teresa Ferris, and "Poppy" Bartz

VIRTUS Updates

As of December 31st, anyone who has not been completing the VIRTUS Online Training Bulletins will have their accounts suspended for non-compliance.

Please check the status of your bulletins at

www.virtus.org



Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open for purchases on Wednesday, December 6th, Thursday, December 7th, and during Snacks with Santa on Friday, December 8th.



School Uniforms

As we approach the new year, we understand that many of the children have had growth spurts since school started. Please take a look at our supply of used uniforms before



spending the money to purchase new items. We have a good supply of gently-used shirts, blouses, jumpers, skirts, and pants. These are free for the taking and can be found in

*The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in His
presence* ★

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert for students in grades K-6 will be held on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30 PM in St. Joseph Church. Students should wear dress-up clothes for this event.



Save the Date

St. Joseph Regional School will host a Meat Raffle on Friday, January 19th at 7:00 PM. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars. More information is available at the end of this newsletter.



Christmas Recess

Christmas Recess will begin on Friday, December 22nd. School will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd.



Subway Day

Our December Subway Day is scheduled for Friday, December 15th.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cindy McDonald at 716-854-0869 ext. 1 or cmcdonald@bisonfund.com.



BISON Scholarship Fund

The BISON fund is now accepting K-8 pre-applications from NEW FAMILIES for funding for the 2024-25 school year. Families should apply online through the website at www.bisonfund.com beginning on January 1st. The pre-application is only for families new to BISON. The pre-application deadline is February 28th. A lottery drawing will be held in March to award the scholarships. Lottery winners will

receive an email directing them to complete a full application to receive a scholarship. Waitlisted families will also be notified by e-mail. Current families will be e-mailed a link to complete the requalification process in February. The families will log into the database and complete the requalification steps and upload their financial information. The deadline for all returning families is April 15th.

School closings

In the event of poor weather conditions, St. Joseph Regional School will close if the Batavia School District closes. St. Joseph Regional School itself may or may not be announced. However, if St. Joseph Regional School closes independently, the announcement will be made using the school name.

Regardless of Radio and TV listings, our families will receive notification via the School Messenger system. Please help us keep you informed by keeping your contact information up to date by notifying the office of any phone or email changes. Thank you!



Health Office News

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS DURING COLD & FLU SEASON

The following are a few situations that warrant monitoring and possibly calling your health care provider:

- ✦ Persistent fever greater than 100.4°, including a fever controlled with medication such as Tylenol
- ✦ Uncomfortable, disruptive cough
- ✦ Sore throat that is severe with fever for more than 48 hours, OR after known exposure to Strep throat infection
- ✦ Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts; OR a rash in various stages including boils, sores and bumps that may be chicken pox; OR a significant rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever
- ✦ Red, runny eyes
- ✦ Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache
- ✦ Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear
- ✦ Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever

- ✦ Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others

Finally, if you know your child is still running a fever, please do not medicate them and send them into school. As the medication wears off you are likely to receive a call to come to pick up your feverish child. It is better to let them stay home in bed with a fever and take their medications at home until they are off all medicines and ready for a full day in a classroom.

Remember, whenever you keep your child home from school, please call the school promptly and send a note with them upon their return.

Thank you!



Reaching you by Email, Voice and Text

We use the Family Contact Service called "School Messenger". On the "Family Contact Form" sent home at the beginning of the year, there was a section entitled "Sending You Voice & E-mail messages". We have used these email addresses and phone numbers to create a database of contacts.

If you are not receiving email or text messages or have not received an "Opt-In" text message please contact Mrs. O'Neill. She may be reached at the school office or at noneill@sjsbatavia.org.

Please note that time-sensitive messages will be

sent by text or voice. General messages such as our weekly news will be sent by email.

Note that if you provided your email address to us but have not been receiving our weekly Monday Morning Memo as well as other messages, you may need to check your filtered messages ("Spam" or "Junk"). Some e-mail systems will filter multiple-recipient messages such as those sent through School Messenger.



MATTHEW 1:21-23

²¹AND SHE SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS: FOR HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS. ²²NOW ALL THIS WAS DONE, THAT IT MIGHT BE FULFILLED WHICH WAS SPOKEN OF THE LORD BY THE PROPHET, SAYING, ²³BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME EMMANUEL, WHICH BEING INTERPRETED IS, GOD WITH US. KJV



Kindergarten: Jaxon Cultrara-Haworth

Grade 1: Riley Trzecieski

Grade 2: Payton Sprague

Grade 3: Elanora Batdorf

Grade 4: Kylie Lutey

Grade 5: Noah DeLong

Grade 6: Daniel Sutherland



Join Us For St. Joseph Regional School's Annual

SNACKS

*With Santa
and Mrs. Claus*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 6-8PM

ENJOY A MOVIE, SNACKS, & CRAFTS!

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS PAJAMAS

PHOTOS WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS!

COOKIE DECORATING

**YES! We would like to attend St. Joseph Regional School's
2023 SNACKS WITH SANTA AT SJS**

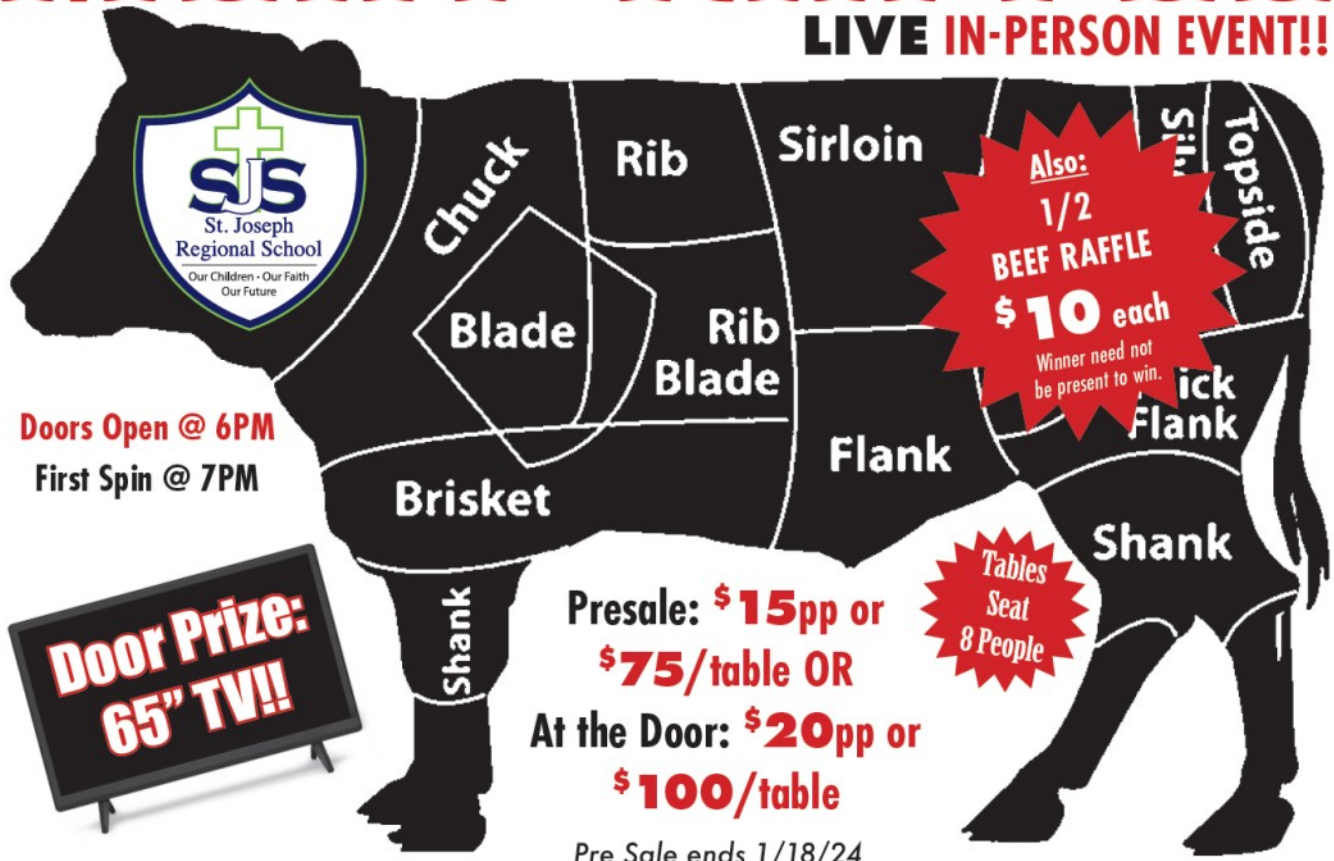
Family Name _____ # of Children _____ # of Adults _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS BOTTOM SLIP TO THE MAIN OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

Sponsored by Stein Farms & Freed Maxick

MEAT RAFFLE

LIVE IN-PERSON EVENT!!



Doors Open @ 6PM
First Spin @ 7PM

Door Prize:
65" TV!!

Presale: \$15pp or
\$75/table OR

At the Door: \$20pp or
\$100/table

Pre Sale ends 1/18/24

JANUARY 19, 2024

- Drinks Included in Price of Admission (Beer, Seltzers, Pop & Water)
- Bring Food/Snacks and a Cooler for Winnings!
- Tables purchased BEFORE 1/4/24 will receive:
(3) 1st Round Raffle Tickets, (3) PYO Events Tickets & 1 sheet of Basket Raffle Tickets (limit 1 set per table).
- Tickets available on our website or from an SJS Family
- NEW This year –PYO Tickets (Pick Your Own Meat Tix)

Winner receives \$250 gift card to Pellicano's

WWW.SJSBATAVIA.ORG



2 SUMMIT ST., BATAVIA • SJRSMEATRAFFLES@GMAIL.COM FOR INFO

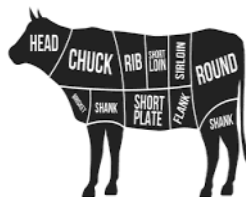
Meat Raffle Sponsorship Opportunities

Event Date: 1/19/24

Do you have a business? Would you like an opportunity to get your name out to the community? This is our biggest event of the year. Check out our opportunities below.

Type	Description
Gold Sponsor \$1,000	Everything a TABLE & SILVER sponsor receives PLUS Your business will be <u>included in ALL Social Media Advertising and on the Event Flyer.</u> (must be signed up by 11/20 to be included on the flyer). <u>FREE TABLE admission to the event</u> for 8 people with Front Row seating <u>5 PYO (Pick Your Own) Event tickets</u>
Silver Sponsor \$500	Everything a TABLE sponsor receives AND Your business announced as a sponsor for 2 rounds at the event FREE TABLE admission to the event for 8 people
Table Sponsor \$250	Table Named after your Company Business logo advertised on the table with the table # Name/Logo included on the outer rim of the Program Placemats will be on all the tables

Questions may be directed to Michelle at sjrsmeatraffles@gmail.com



Dear SJRS Families,

For the 3rd year in a row we will be having our ½ **BEEF Raffle** in conjunction with our **Annual Meat Raffle (Friday, January 19th)**. Last year we raised \$15,000 from the sale of the ½ Beef Raffle Tickets. If we are able to sell 2,000 tickets as a school, then Stein Farms will donate the other half of the cow so we can draw TWO winners!!!! We will be sending home tickets to each family and are asking each to try and **sell at least 10 tickets**.

This year we will be offering prizes for families AND grade levels that sell the most ½ BEEF Raffle tickets. The family who sells the most tickets will receive a **\$300 Gift Card to T-Shirts Etc.** Grade

1st Prize	<u>WIN ALL 3!!!</u> Dress Down Day, Pizza & Ice Cream Party
2nd Prize	<u>WIN 2!!!!</u> Pizza & Ice Cream Party
3rd Prize	Ice Cream Party
Family Prize	\$300 Gift Card to T-Shirts Etc.

Tickets are available now! If you would like to get more tickets, you can email Michelle at SJRSmeatraffles@gmail.com . Please include your name, child's name, and grade level in the email. We will send tickets home with your child in books of 5. Please let me know how many books you would like.

Suggestions for selling tickets include: businesses, family gatherings, vestibule of your church (talk to your priest/deacon about selling them after mass), or community events. For your child to receive credit for the sale you must put your child's name on the **SOLD BY** line of the Ticket stub. If you have multiple children and would like to split ticket sales up between grade levels, please do so in groups of 5. Please email all questions to SJRSmeatraffles@gmail.com.

SJRS Annual Meat Raffle

1/2 BEEF RAFFLE

DRAWING: JANUARY 19, 2024
Winner receives 1/2 of a Side of BEEF
Winner will be drawn at our event
Need not be present to win.

Beef locally raised & donated by our sponsor
STEIN FARMS
Processed by Dan Schwartz

Proceeds to benefit St. Joseph's School



\$10 per ticket

**CAN'T ATTEND THE EVENT!!! NO PROBLEM.
YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN SOME MEAT.**

NEW THIS YEAR

- *P.Y.O. (Pick Your Own) Meat Tickets for Presale & Online **\$10 each.**
- *Winner receives a **\$250 Gift Card to Pellicano's Marketplace.**
- *Winner is responsible for ordering and picking up their own meat.
- * All Online orders will receive their ticket numbers via Email. No paper tickets will be issued.
- *EVERY TICKET sold will receive ONE entry into a drawing. 3 Prizes will be raffled off to those students/families who sell PINK tickets.
- *Email questions to Michelle at sjrsmeatraffles@gmail.com

**To purchase go to WWW.SJSBATAVIA.ORG
or ask an SJRS Family**

**P.Y.O. MEAT TICKET
PRESALE/ONLINE**

P.Y.O. (Pick Your Own) Meat raffle ticket. Winner receives a Gift Card to Pellicano's Marketplace (3338 Niagara Falls Blvd, N. Tonawanda). **Winner is responsible for ordering & picking up their own meat.** NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. Drawing will take place at our SJRS Annual Meat Raffle.

**FRIDAY
1.19.24**

 **\$250**

PELLICANOS GIFT CARD

\$10





MAKERSPACE

KEVA PLANK CHALLENGE





Why: Students in all grades will be able to purchase special gifts for family and friends. Most items are between \$.50 and \$5.00. Gifts will be wrapped and labeled to place under the tree.

Please list the names of the family and friends you have permission to buy gifts for and bring it with you on your shopping day.

[illegible]

Santa's Secret Shop Schedule

Monday, December 11th:

Grade 3	9:40-10:20
Kindergarten (Grade 5 will assist)	1:30-2:10

Tuesday, December 12th:

Pre-K 3 Morning	9:40-10:20
Grade 2 (Grade 4 will assist)	10:15-10:55

Grade 6	1:30-2:10
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Wednesday, December 13th:

Grade 1 (Grade 6 will assist)	8:15-8:55
Pre-K Morning	9:15-9:50
Pre-K Afternoon	12:30-1:10
Grade 4	1:30-2:10

Thursday, December 14th:

Grade 5	1:30-2:10
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CATHOLIC CHARITIES ISSWP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2023
EDITION

TOPIC OF
THE MONTH

Coping - Skills

Each month our school mental health professionals push into classrooms to discuss a social-emotional skill. This month all grades will be focusing on coping skills. Coping skills can be effective tools to help us, self-regulate and manage challenging thoughts and emotions.

HOW THIS HELPS IN THE CLASSROOM

Helping students identify what causes them to feel certain emotions, and giving them the skills to manage these feelings is huge! It gives our students the support they need to be in control of managing their own thoughts and behavior. It not only empowers them, but provides them with tools to be successful. It also helps boost their self-confidence and ability to self-regulate!



THINGS TO TRY AT HOME!!!

During this time of year, who couldn't benefit from having a few helpful tips or strategies to try? The holidays are not an uncommon time for individuals to experience, unwelcomed stress, conflict, anger, sadness and grief. Here are a few suggestions to help encourage positive well-being: **set boundaries** (discuss expectations ahead of time, set time limits for activities), **get into a routine** (create balance, plan ahead), **brainstorm positive outlets for stress relief before it strikes** (physical activity, connecting with friends, mindfulness practices), **Reflect** [acknowledge your accomplishments both big and small, set SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely)] and most of all **make time for yourself** (quiet time, hobbies or even something new).



Resources

- Here is more information on creating SMART goals:
www.onoursleeves.org
- The Crisis Services 24-Hour Hotline provides immediate response to callers seeking assistance during or after a crisis, a traumatic event, or just needing to have someone provide validation or hope at 716-834-3131

**For more
information**

Visit www.ccwny.org