

Amherst Public Library

# Student Art Show

Monday, April 22 - Saturday, May 11

Art from local students will be on display throughout the second floor of the library. The Student Art Show will be available for viewing during library open hours.

**Student Art Show Reception:**

**Wednesday, May 1, 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

**View the artwork and enjoy light refreshments!**

221 Spring Street, Amherst + 440-988-4230 + [amherstpubliclibrary.org](http://amherstpubliclibrary.org)

\*Including pieces from some of our own SJS students!



**Summer Care registration**  
**is going on NOW!!**

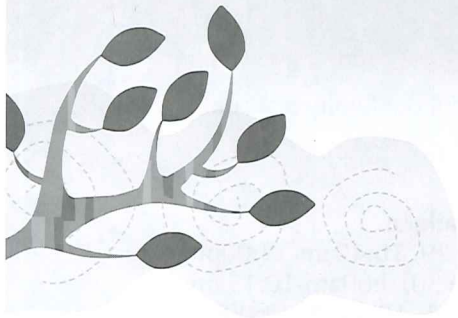


Various fun, educational and entertaining activities scheduled everyday. Including Field Trips around Downtown Amherst!

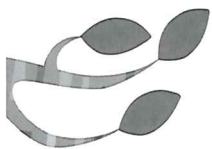
**Email: [extended.preschool@sjs-amherst.org](mailto:extended.preschool@sjs-amherst.org)**

**Find registration forms and information on St. Joseph's website under parent information.**

# Summer Reading Skills PROGRAMS



 **CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY**  
The Laura & Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program



**Phonics**  
**Fluency**  
**Comprehension**  
**Love of Reading**  
**Study Skills**  
**Reading Speed**

## **Program for 4-Year-Olds and Entering Kindergartners**

In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read. Children learn letter recognition, beginning phonics, and easy sight words. Your child will learn to read simple words and short sentences and get excited about books and reading.

## **Program for Entering 1st Graders**

In this fun summer program, your child will learn to read independently. Children learn phonics and sight words and build comprehension skills. Your child will develop a love of books and reading and get off to a great start in first grade.

## **Program for Entering 2nd Graders**

In this fun summer program, your child will become a confident, fluent reader. Children build solid phonics and word-attack skills, develop reading fluency, and improve comprehension. Your child will develop a love of reading and get off to a great start in second grade.

## **Program for Entering 3rd Graders**

In this fun summer program, your child will become a strong, confident reader. Children improve fluency and comprehension, build long-word decoding skills, and expand vocabulary. Your child will develop a lifelong love of reading and get off to a great start in third grade.

## **Programs for Entering 4th and 5th Graders**

In these fun single-grade programs, your child will become a skilled, confident reader with strong comprehension in fiction, nonfiction, and textbooks. Students expand their vocabulary and learn to read more fluently and rapidly. As a result, your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and enjoy reading more.

## **Programs for Entering 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders**

In these single-grade programs, your son or daughter will make substantial gains in comprehension and reading speed in fiction, nonfiction, and textbooks. Students expand vocabulary and learn the best way to take notes. As a result, your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and build confidence as a reader.

## **Programs for Entering 9th and 10th Graders**

In these single-grade programs, students learn the skills they need to succeed in high school. Your child will double reading speed and improve comprehension and focus in fiction, textbooks, and nonfiction. Students expand their academic vocabulary and learn study strategies to complete work efficiently, get better grades, and score higher on exams.

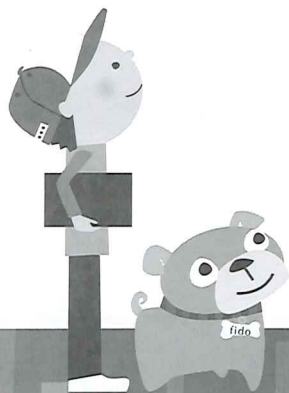
**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER**

**Call 1-800-715-2808**

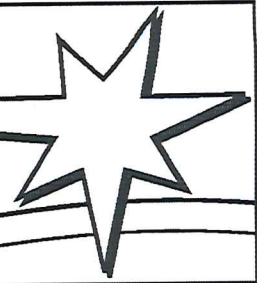
Mon.-Fri. 8am-9pm, Sat. 8am-7pm, and Sun. 10am-6pm

**PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASS SCHEDULE**

Source Code: 300-74-70712



# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

April 2024

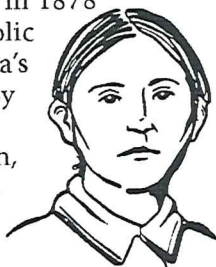
St. Joseph School, Amherst  
Mrs. Amy Makruski, Principal



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Gemma Galgani

Born in Tuscany in 1878 to a devout Catholic family, St. Gemma's life was marked by consolation and suffering. Early on, she loved to pray, mystically conversing with Jesus, Mary, and her Guardian Angel. She suffered the loss of half her family to tuberculosis and was prevented from entering the Passionist Order due to her own poor health. She died of tuberculosis at the age of 25.



### Religion, front and center

Treat children's religious education classes as the most important education they receive. Make attendance and homework as much a priority as "regular" school. Mastering the content they learn may not get them into college, but it will guarantee their entrance into someplace even more important.

*"Truly, the Lord is waiting to be gracious to you, truly, he shall rise to show you mercy; For the Lord is a God of justice: happy are all who wait for him!" (Isaiah 30:18)*



## Family habits that can help keep youngsters Catholic

Recent studies have revealed that many Catholic children leave the Faith when they leave high school. Those who remain faithful to Jesus come from families who follow four "best practices." Consider these:

**Cultivate communion:** Researchers found that families who shared a meal regularly are more likely to raise faithful Catholic adults. It's a powerful way to strengthen communion, teach values, and share a love for Jesus. Resolve to have family meals three or four times weekly (without screens).

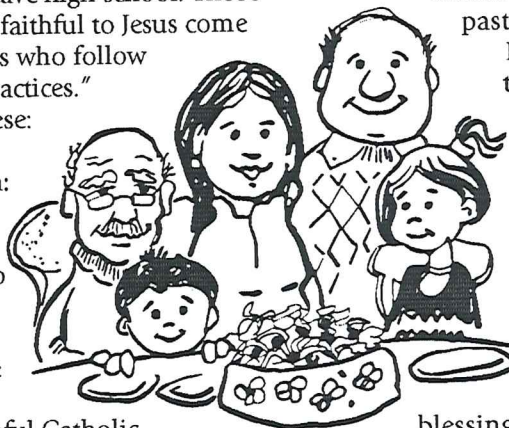
**Be open to questions:** Most young people leave the Church because they had many faith-based questions but no answers. Encourage children to ask and seek the answers together. Teach them

how to use reliable sources, starting with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* or turn to your local pastor.

**Form a prayer tradition:** Keep it simple. Gather round a Crucifix to pray for intentions and exchange a sign of peace. Let a different child lead the "nightly decade," or sing a hymn together and offer a blessing before bedtime.

**Make prayer whatever works for you.**

**Encourage service:** Faithful adults tend to grow up in families that prioritized service to the poor. Look for a way to donate time, talent or treasure to those in need. Your parish may need your support of one of its ministries. Let God's priorities shape your own.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Mass is the most important and powerful gift we have as Catholics. Holy Communion brings us into union – heart to heart – with Jesus, really and truly present. When He enters a soul, He brings with Him countless graces: peace, healing, remission for



## Why do Catholics celebrate Communion?

venial sins, strength, spiritual nourishment, and a "love...strong as death" (Song of Songs 8:6). When Jesus enters the sanctuary of our hearts in Holy Communion, and especially at one's First Communion, it's a cause for joyful celebration.

# How do our children benefit from weekly Mass?

If your family was invited to dinner and you knew Jesus would be there, would you go? Of course you would! You know how blessed your children would be just by being in Jesus' presence. In fact, Jesus is present – in person – at every Mass. Your children are blessed by Him:

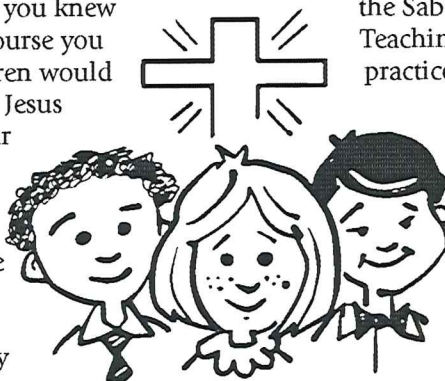
**Good food.** Parents are careful to feed children well so they stay strong and healthy. At Sunday Mass, Jesus gives us the food we need for our souls to stay strong and healthy.

**Good practice.** God told us to keep holy

the Sabbath Day and to observe His laws. Teaching children to obey God's rules is great practice for teaching them to obey ours.

**Good listening.** When we go to Mass, we hear God's Word. Familiarity with Scripture builds the lifelong skill of listening for God's voice.

**Good company.** Each of us is needed by our Catholic community. *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:20).



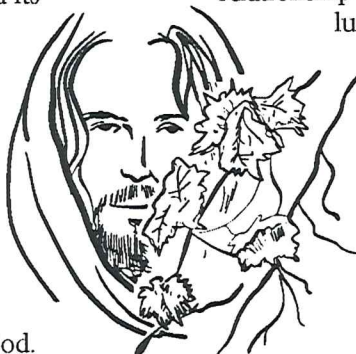
## Scripture LESSON

### John 15:1-8, "Remain in me"

In this Gospel passage, Jesus compares life with Him to the Vine and its branches. Our connection with Him is absolutely vital for our souls. The stark reality is that a vine-branch can't be cut off and "transplanted" in the soil; it's either attached to the vine or it withers and dies.

Why does Jesus say something so shocking? Because He is the Word of God. Jesus Christ must be the center of our lives. While some are called to devote themselves more radically to Christ than others (e.g. monks, nuns, and priests), everyone is called to deep, living

intimacy with Him. A close relationship with Christ isn't a luxury; it's a necessity for our spiritual health.



*What can a parent do?* Teach children that Jesus must be the center of our hearts, souls, and lives. Help them to build the habit of praying to Him often. Teach

them that weekly Mass and monthly Confession is needed to "keep in touch" with their Friend. To the extent that our hearts belong to Jesus, we will find lasting peace and joy.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**April 3 – St. Richard of Chichester (1253).** Born in England, St. Richard studied law at Bologna. Known for his holiness and administrative skills, he was named archbishop of Chichester, but because of political persecution, spent most of his office in exile. St. Richard died in Dover while preaching a crusade.

**April 7 – Divine Mercy Sunday (1931).** Jesus asked St. Faustina to ensure that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of Mercy." He promised special graces and mercy to whoever honors him as the King of

Mercy and prays The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

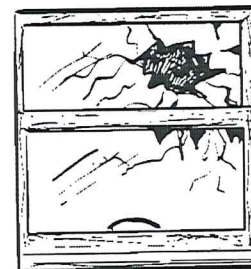
**April 8 – The Annunciation of the Lord.** The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the Mother of God, to which she had complete confidence in God's wisdom.

**April 25 – St. Mark the Evangelist (First Century).** St. Mark wrote his Gospel based on St. Peter's perspective and accompanied Saints Paul and Barnabas in Cyprus. He is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria.



## Parent TALK

When we moved into a new neighborhood, I became concerned about some of the boys Toby started playing with.



They seemed a little wild and some of the neighbors accused them of vandalism and stealing. I told Toby of

my concerns but said I wouldn't forbid him from playing with them. However, if the boys committed any misdeeds – whether he participated or not – I would hold Toby solely responsible.

That next week Toby ran home in a panic. Even though he "told them not to," the boys threw a rock through Mr. Grayson's front window. I walked Toby back to Mr. Grayson's house where he apologized for his and his friends' behavior and made arrangements to replace the window.

He had to mow a lot of lawns and rake a lot of leaves to pay for the window but he quickly lost interest in those friends, much to my relief.

### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™  
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax  
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>  
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

# Upcoming Dates- April/May 2024

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
4/19/24	CYO Track Pictures- Grades 1-8	Please bring your track uniform top with you to school on Friday, 4/19.
4/24/24	Jesus Day/Communion Practice for Grade 2	5:30-7:30- meet in the Social Hall
4/27/24	First Communion	10:00 am at St. Joseph Church- Communicants arrive to Social Hall between 9:15 and 9:45
5/3 and 5/4/24	Newsies, Jr. Drama Production	7 p.m. in the Social Hall each evening! All are welcome!
5/7/24	May Parent Club Meeting	7 p.m. in the MPR
5/10/24	May Devotional- 9:30 a.m. (The school will not attend 9 am mass today.)	Led by our 2nd and 8th graders in St. Joseph Church- All are welcome!
5/15/24	Crusher's Day for SJS	Grades K-8 will attend a special Crusher's game for students!
5/17/24	Spring Concert	7 p.m. in St. Joseph Church
5/27/24	NO SCHOOL	Memorial Day
5/31/24	Grades 6-8- Pittsburgh Field Trip	Details were sent home last week.
6/4/24	8th Grade Retreat Day	Takes place on the SJS campus
6/5/24	Field Day, Last day of school for 8th graders and K Graduation	Field Day grades K-8 all day; K Graduation at 7 p.m at St. Joseph Church
6/6/24	Last Day of School; 8th Graduation	11:00 Dismissal for grades 1-7; 8th grade graduation at 7 p.m. Mass

The end of the year is quickly approaching. Here are some dates/events to keep in mind as we move through these next few weeks!

**SANDSTONE SUMMER THEATRE PRESENTS**

**Disney**  
**101 Dalmatians**  
CLASSIC  
**KIDS**  
**SUMMER CAMP**

**Date:** June 17th - July 20th  
**Monday - Friday 10 am - 1 pm**  
**Age:** 4 years old to completion of 3rd grade!  
**Location:** Amherst Jr. High  
(Must be potty trained)

**What we offer:**

- Musical Theater Workshops
- Literacy and Critical Thinking Skills
- Creative Expression
- Team Building
- Outdoor Fun

**Why choose Sandstone?**

- Our camp nurtures not only artistic talents but also academic excellence and social-emotional growth.
- We prioritize the safety and well-being of our campers, providing a nurturing atmosphere where every child feels valued and respected.

**Registration Fee: \$250**

**\*Scholarships available**



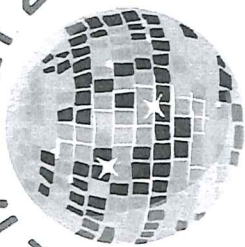
**Register now at**  
**[sandstonesummertheatre.ludus.com](http://sandstonesummertheatre.ludus.com)**



SANDSTONE SUMMER THEATER PRESENTS

# XANADU JR. SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 17 - JULY 21ST



4TH-8TH GRADE

### WHAT WE OFFER!

DIVE INTO THE MAGICAL  
WORLD OF MUSICAL THEATER!  
THROUGH ENGAGING  
WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES,  
CAMPERS WILL LEARN THE  
FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING,  
SINGING, AND DANCING.

### LOCATION & TIME:

MARION L. STEELE HIGH SCHOOL  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
10AM-3PM

### WHY SANDSTONE?

WE PRIORITIZE THE  
SAFETY AND WELL-BEING  
OF OUR CAMPERS,  
PROVIDING A NURTURING  
ATMOSPHERE WHERE  
EVERY CHILD FEELS  
VALUED AND RESPECTED.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$250  
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

REGISTER NOW AT:  
SANDSTONESUMMERTHEATRE.LUDUS.COM

