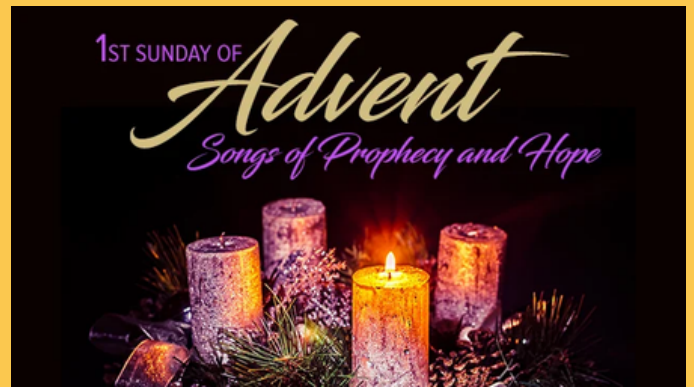




December 2, 2024



Yesterday, we lit the first candle of Advent. This candle has traditionally been referred to as "Prophet's Candle", reminding us that Jesus is coming. The theological virtue of HOPE is at the center of the first week.

Dates to Remember

December 3rd-5th:

Santa Shop

December 7th:

Breakfast with Santa

Half Shell in Gulfport

December 9th:

School Mass

8:30 in the Church

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 11th & 12th:

Christmas Program

St. James Catholic School

603 West Avenue

Gulfport, MS 39507

228-896-6631

Fax: 228-896-6638

**On Mission,
Together!**



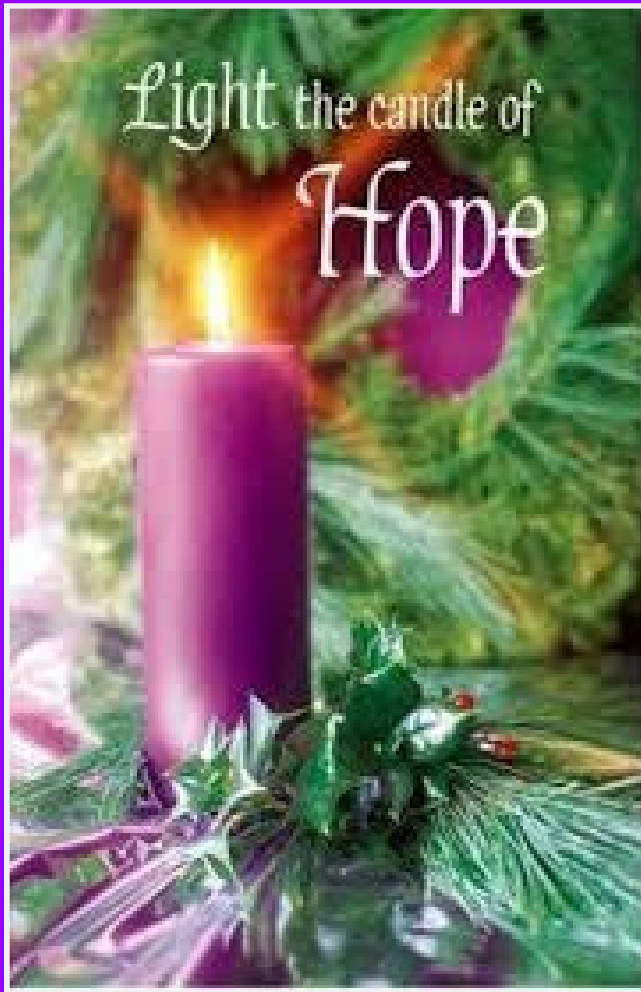
Blue and Gold Winners:

- 11/18/24 - Mandy Anderson \$100.00**
- 11/25/24 - Nicole Holder \$100.00**
- 12/2/24 - Mandy Anderson \$500.00**



Congratulations!

Blue and Gold Winners:



Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Penance

Preparation

Sacrifice

The first day of Advent is Sunday, December 1st. It represents the Expectation of HOPE. The Lord God is our hope. He is our Redeemer. He is our Savior. We will light the first purple candle, the Candle of Hope.

“We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promise made to us. Our hope comes from God.”



ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

WITH

SANTA

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 7

8A-10AM



TAKE A PHOTO WITH SANTA,
MAKE REINDEER FOOD,
& WRITE YOUR LETTER TO SEND TO THE
NORTH POLE!

TICKETS ARE \$10*



Half Shell
Oyster House

2500 13TH ST

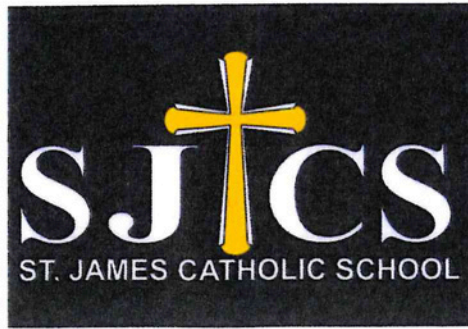
GULFPORT, 39501



Other opportunities to give to the
Christmas Teacher Bonus Fund include:

Teacher Bonus appeal letter AND the Santa Shop (December 3rd - 5th),

***PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHRISTMAS TEACHER BONUS FUND.**



Faculty & Staff Christmas Bonus

With the Christmas season quickly approaching, we are reflecting on the many blessings God has given us at St. James Catholic School. In addition to a close-knit school community, we have a faculty and staff who love our children and are dedicated to their spiritual growth and academic education.

With this in mind, the St. James P.L.U.S. has once again organized a monetary appeal to be applied to a Christmas Bonus Fund that will be distributed among our faculty and staff. This along with Santa Shop and the Breakfast with Santa are the sole funding for the Christmas Bonus Fund.

In lieu of a Christmas gift for your child's teacher, we ask that you please consider a donation to the Christmas Bonus Fund to help us show our appreciation to the devoted faculty and staff of St. James during this Christmas season.

Please send your donation to the school office in the attached envelope no later than

Friday, December 13th.

Checks should be made payable to St. James School.

Any donation will be appreciated.



The Second Grade
classes are joining with



the SJCS Junior Spirit Movers to
collect items for St. Vincent de Paul
during the Thanksgiving
and Christmas seasons.



Items that are being collected include:

Canned Goods

Boxed Dinners

Cereals

Any other food items

Toilet Tissue

Paper Towels

Kleenex

Body/Hand Lotion

Travel-size detergent (small)



*“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of
these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”*

Matthew 25:40

St. James Catholic School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 11th
&

Thursday, December 12th



TO: Parents of PK3-6th Grade Students

FR: Terese G. Evans - MUSIC/ART

RE: 2024 Christmas Program Performance Schedule



Students in PK3-6th grades have started rehearsing for our Christmas program. Our Christmas program is December 11th (Wednesday) and December 12th (Thursday) at 7:00pm in the gym. The Christmas program is MANDATORY (as stated in the SJS Handbook) and will be their 2nd Quarter grade in Music. A detailed costume requirement will be in our newsletter the week before Thanksgiving break. Students must perform with their class according to the schedule below (no swaps will be considered):

Wednesday Dec. 11th

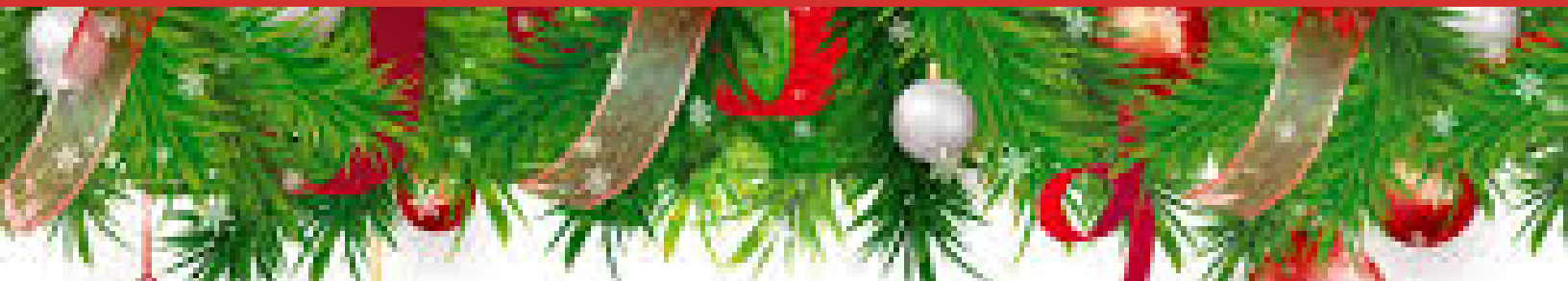
=====

- PK3-1 (Daria Sharp) & 1/2 of PK3-2 (Robyn Kirby)
- PK4-1 (Stacey Cox)
- K-1 (Denene Jordan)
- 1-1 (Danique Freeman)
- 2-1 (Jamie Lindsey)
- 3-1 (Sindy Holder)
- 4-1 (Jennifer Cross)
- 5-1 (Susan Ladner)
- 6-1 (Jason Wiltz)

Thursday Dec. 12th

=====

- PK3-3 (Shannon Sharp) & 1/2 of PK3-2 (Robyn Kirby)
- PK4-2 (Dudley Couey)
- K-2 (Sharon Nelson)
- 1-A (Kathy Saucier)
- 2-A (Magen Sullivan)
- 3-A (Victoria Williams)
- 4-A (John Loflin)
- 5-A (Lillian Guida)
- 6-A (Michelle Moreno)



TO: Parents of PK3-6th graders

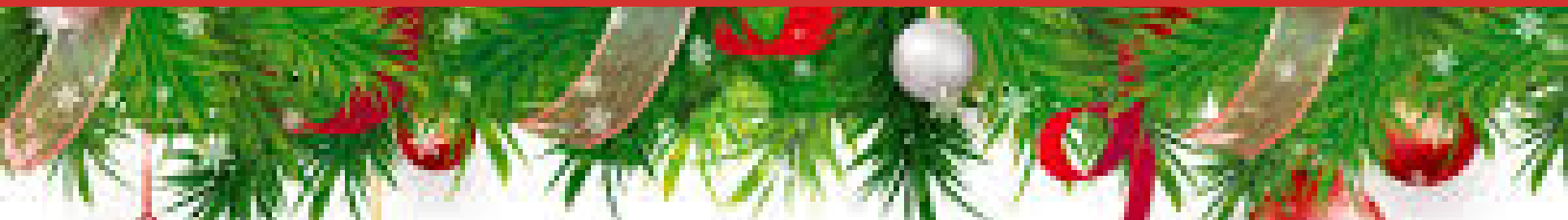
FR: Terese G. Evans (Music)

DATE: 11/14/24



RE: 2024 Christmas Program & Costume Requirements

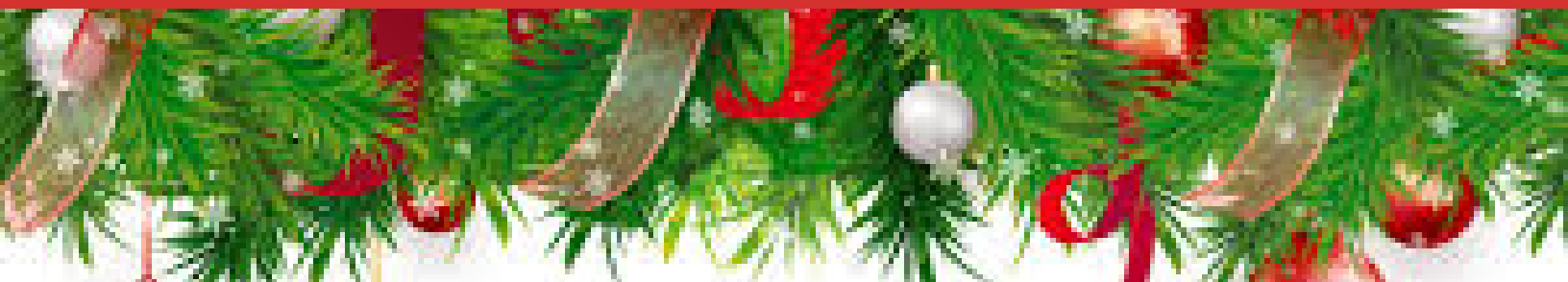
Mark your calendars...our Christmas program is fast approaching! The program will be December 11th (Wednesday) and December 12th (Thursday) at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. All 1st-6th graders should wear Christmas party attire (no jeans) for ACT I and costumes for ACT II (parents can assist their child with costumes during intermission). **IMPORTANT:** 1st-6th graders will need a small working flashlight (with their names on it). All PK3-K students will be in ACT I ONLY and may be retrieved by their parents during intermission (NOT BEFORE). All students should report to their classrooms no later than 6:40 p.m. Students will be called to the Fine Arts building at 6:50 p.m. to line up backstage for the show. The Christmas program is MANDATORY (as stated in the SJS Handbook) and will be your child's Music grade for the quarter. **STUDENTS MUST PERFORM WITH THEIR CLASS ON THEIR SCHEDULED PERFORMANCE DAY** (no swaps will be considered). Any questions? Contact: tevans@stjamesgulfport.com. Listed below is your child's performance schedule and costume requirements:



COSTUME REQUIREMENTS - continued



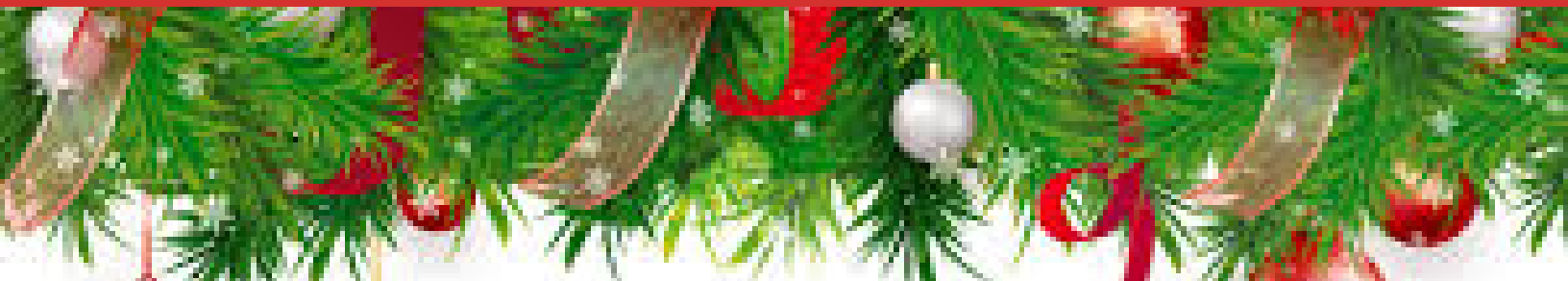
- PK3 - Will be Santa's Elves. Traditional red & green colors with pointy ears and rosy cheeks
- PK4 - Will be Santa's Toys. Dolls, superheroes, teddy bears etc. (must look like a toy)
- K - Will be in their Christmas pajamas. Christmas themed nightgowns or tops and pants. Slipper socks or slippers that stay on their feet work best
- 1 - Will be Reindeer. Must have antlers that stay on their head during dance and a black dot on the tip of their nose
- 2 - Will be Polar Express Waiters. Need long sleeved white shirt and black pants or black skirts w/black tights, black socks and black shoes. Need a white kitchen towel tucked at the waist on front of pants.
- 3 - Will be Candy Cane Land people. Need to wear red and white only. Must see both colors.



- 4 - Will be 1940's Swing dancers. Boys need a vest or sweater that is Christmas themed. Girls need to wear a Christmas tree skirt (turned into a skirt) for the bottom and a Christmas themed top plus a Christmas poinsettia attached to one side of their hair

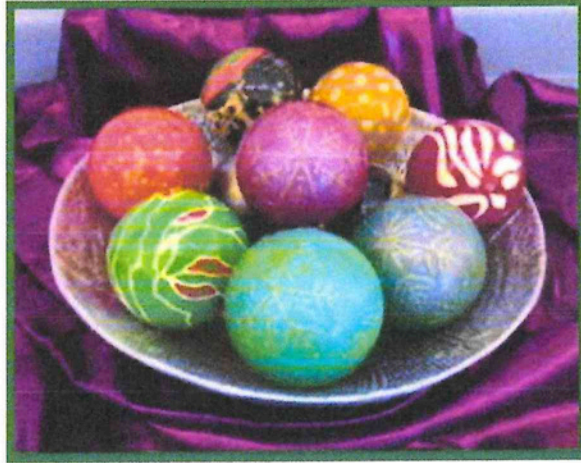
- 5 - Will be the Blues Brothers. Must wear a blue top and blue long pants (any shade of blue), blue vest (optional), black shoes, white COTTON (not nylon) socks, black sunglasses and a black or blue Fedora hat. NO dresses or skirts

- 6 - Will be Glow in the Dark. Need to be in black from top to bottom (including black shoes and socks). Need a black beanie cap to put their hair under. Apply designs directly to the black top and bottom with orange and pink neon duct tape



Each PK3 - 6th grade student paints only ONE ornament.
Multiple ornaments are not available.

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S 2024 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



It has become a tradition at St. James Catholic School for each PK3-6th grade student to create a beautiful, hand-painted paper mache' Christmas ornament. Ornaments will be dipped in high gloss polyurethane to give the look of glass. These one-of-a-kind ornaments will create lasting memories as you display them on your Christmas trees.

The sale of student ornaments will help absorb the cost of our Christmas program (costumes, set pieces, backdrop, props & honorariums).

=====

ORDER FORM (\$10.00/each)

(Student Name)

(Grade)

(Teacher's Name)



All aboard the POLAR EXPRESS!

When: Friday, December 13th

While classroom teachers are planning their own Polar Express day activities, ALL students are invited to wear their favorite pajamas to school on this special day.

... If girls wear a nightgown to school, please make sure shorts or tights are worn underneath.

ALL ABOARD!

THE POLAR EXPRESS™



Weekly School Mass Schedule

8:30 a.m.

Wednesday

*1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th,
and 6th Grades*

2024 - 2025 Children's Mass

Featured Choir and Reading Schedule

Note: 3rd - 6th grade students will sing in the choir and do both of the readings and the responsorial psalm on their featured weeks.

2nd grade students will sing in the choir and CCD will do the readings.

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Mass

Featured Choir and Readers

December 8, 2024

4th Grade

December 15, 2024

3rd Grade



We will offer ice cream on Friday. Students must have cash in order to purchase ice cream. All of the ice cream products that we sell are approved by the state office of Child Nutrition and fall within the guidelines of our Wellness Policy.

PK-3, PK-4, Kindergarten and 1st Grade: Students can bring money in a zip-lock bag with their name on it. If you would like to pay in advance, teachers will keep up with the money in the zip-lock bag. They will send the bag home when it is empty.

2nd - 6th Grade: Students will purchase their own ice cream and will be responsible for keeping up with their money.



All ice cream is \$1.00



December 2nd - 6th 2024

Monday

TRAY: Hamburger, Chips, Corn Fritters, Fruit Juice Slushie
TOTE: Pizza Stick, Alfredo Pasta, Fruit Juice Slushie
Fruit & Yogurt

Tuesday

TRAY: French Toast Sticks, Sausage, Eggs, Banana
TOTE: Chicken Tender Wrap w/ Bacon & Spinach, Chips, Fruit
Chef Salad

Wednesday

TRAY: Chicken Parm w/ Pasta, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Cookie
TOTE: Italian Sub, Chips, Cookie
Fruit & Yogurt

Thursday

TRAY: Chicken Nuggets, Rolls, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Peas
TOTE: Soft Pretzel w/ Cheese Sause, Pepperoni Slices, Fruit
Chef Salad

Friday

TRAY: Pizza, French Fries, St. Nicholas Cookies
TOTE: Hot Dog, Chips, Apple Slices
Fruit & Yogurt

Be on time for school!

“But it’s just 10 minutes!”

Just being 10 minutes late per day can add up!
That is almost an HOUR per week

OR

1 1/2 WEEKS per school year

OR

1/2 a SCHOOL YEAR over a school career!

**Don't be late;
you'll miss something great!**

Being on time for school is very important. The bell rings at 8:00 a.m., and the school day begins at that time. Prayer and Pledge are said, and important announcements are made pertaining to the day and to upcoming events.

Even before the 8:00 a.m. bell rings, students do bellwork in their classrooms. Teachers are collecting items from students that will be sent to the office after the announcements are made. They take attendance and enter the lunch preferences and counts. If it is a Mass day, they are preparing to go to the Church. If they have a Special Class, they are moving from their homeroom class to Spanish, Computer, P.E., Library, Music, or Art. Morning time is a busy time and a vital part of the day for all students from PreK-2 through 6th grade. Tardiness disrupts the classroom routine and instructional time, no matter the grade.

We understand that emergencies and extenuating circumstances occur. Please alert the office when these situations arise. Otherwise, please arrive on time.

According to the tardy policy on page 5 of the SJCS Handbook, when a student accumulates 5 tardies in a semester, a letter will be sent or a mandatory meeting will be held with school administration.

Remember, don't be late; you'll miss something great!

EVERY MINUTE IN SCHOOL MATTERS



Did you know? ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but it adds up!

When a student misses 2 days a month:

- They will miss 20 days a year
- They will miss 30 hours of math over the school year
- They will miss 60 hours of reading and writing over the school year
- They will miss over a year of school by graduation

When a student misses 4 days a month:

- They will miss 40 days a year
- They will miss 60 hours of math over the school year
- They will miss 120 hours of reading and writing over the school year
- They will miss over 2 years of school by graduation