November 2026

SABER STORIES

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

November at Saint James School is a special time to reflect on gratitude and the many blessings we share as a school community. As we enter this month, we are reminded of the importance of living our faith through prayer, kindness, and service to others.

We begin the month by celebrating All Saints' Day, honoring the lives of the saints and the examples they set through their faith, devotion to God, and service to others. We will also observe All Souls' Day by remembering the loved ones who have gone before us and holding them close in our hearts and prayers.

At Saint James School, service is an important part of the education, putting our Catholic faith into action. November offers meaningful opportunities for our students to share their blessings with others. Along with our annual Brian Bags service project, we will hold our Thanksgiving food collection to support individuals and families in need throughout the Manchester community. Through these initiatives and our daily religion lessons, we continue to encourage our students to grow in compassion, generosity, and a genuine concern for others.

As we reflect on all that we have to be thankful for, I am especially grateful for our Saint James School families. Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children and for valuing the lasting impact of a strong, faith-filled Catholic education. Your partnership and continued support strengthen our school community and help make Saint James such a special place for our students to learn, grow, and thrive!

I look forward to a wonderful November filled with opportunities to deepen our faith, serve others, and celebrate the many blessings that make our Saint James School community so special.

Warmly,
Mrs. Nunes

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint James School provides a quality Catholic education based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, building a foundation for independent, lifelong learners. We strive to develop every child's full potential through faith, academics, service, and character formation.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 2	Winter Uniform Begins
November 11	Lyman Pie Fundraiser Pick-Up
November 11	Veterans Day Assembly
November 11	**NO HOT LUNCH AVAILABLE**
November 19	Pre-K3 & Pre-K4 2026-2027 Prospective Family Open House
November 25	**11:00am Dismissal**
November 26/27	**No School - Thanksgiving Recess**
December 2	SJS Christmas Store
December 9	Christmas Concert (Gr. 1 & 4 & Bands perform at 6:30pm)
December 11	**No Aftercare (12:05pm dismissal day) - Faculty and Staff Christmas Luncheon**

IMPORTANT NOTES

- There will be NO AFTER-SCHOOL CARE on Friday, December 11th, a 12:05pm dismissal day. Please plan accordingly.
- Punctuality is important; late arrivals disrupt classroom time. Please take care to have your K - 8 student to school before 7:50am. Student absences should be called into the school by 8:00am.
- Please check your email daily for information from the school.
- Please update the SJS main office with all changes to your contact information, including home address, cell phone, and email.



THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

From November 16th - 20th, Saint James School will be collecting food to donate to families in our area. Each grade will be responsible for a food item as noted below. Your generosity is appreciated as we help local families in need have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Pre-Kindergarten: Stuffing

Kindergarten: Instant Potatoes

Grade 1: Cornbread, Bread Mix

Grade 2: Canned Vegetables

Grade 3: Pasta

Grade 4: Desserts (Puddings, Cookies, etc.)

Grade 5: Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate

Grade 6: Juice & Water (Gallon/Large Bottles)

Grade 7: Cranberry Sauce or Pasta Sauce

Grade 8: Gravy, Pickles, Olives



VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday, November 11th the students and staff of Saint James School will host a special ceremony to honor our military heroes, past and present. If you, or any member of your family, have served/ are serving in the armed forces, we hope you/they will attend. We will have music, presentations from classes, and light refreshments. **Please RSVP HERE** .



FROM THE NURSE

All students attending the SJS Pre-K must have an influenza vaccine prior to returning to school on January 4, 2026.

The vaccine must be given between August 1 - December 31. At the time of your child's appointment, please obtain a written note from the healthcare provider stating that he/she has received this year's flu vaccine. If your child has already received the flu shot this season, please drop off the documentation to the main office.

For questions, please reach out to our Saint James School nurse, Mrs. Walker, at (860) 643 5088.

NO HOT LUNCH AVAILABLE 11/11



All students will need to bring a lunch and drink from home on Wednesday, November 11th due to Manchester Public Schools Food Services, being closed for Veterans Day.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



The decision to have a delayed opening, snow day, or early dismissal during inclement weather is made by the Superintendent of Manchester Schools. Please be on the lookout for Manchester Public Schools and St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish on the television.

This year families will also receive a TEXT alert from Saint James School via our new FACTS alert system.

The full Inclement Weather Policy can be viewed HERE and will be posted at the bottom of the SJS email blast for future reference.



PRE-K PROSPECTIVE FAMILY OPEN HOUSE

On the evening of Thursday, November 19th, Saint James School will host an Open House for prospective families interested in our **Pre-Kindergarten program** for the 2027-2028 school year. If you know of anyone who may be considering Saint James School for Pre-K3 or Pre-K4 next year, please invite them to attend! Any currently enrolled families with a student that would be BRAND NEW to our Pre-K program next year are also welcome to attend. RSVP is required HERE.

As a reminder, we are now accepting NEW STUDENT applications for next year. Returning student registration will take place in February (that information will be sent directly to families via email on February 1st). Registration procedures for new families/students begins March 1st based on applications received.

We will host an open house for prospective K - 8 students on Tuesday, February 2nd during Catholic Schools Week.

HSA NEWS AND EVENTS

The SJS Home & School Association would like to thank everyone for participating in our school's fundraisers and FUN-raisers!

Our trunk-or-treat event was a blast with over 80 SJS families attending!

Lyman Pies Pick-Up



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lyman Pies Fundraiser! Together we raised $1,150 for our school!

Please mark the date to pick up your order - pies are frozen and cannot be stored overnight:

Wednesday, November 11th
1:30pm - 2:30pm
SJS Breezeway Door

For families with a student in aftercare, orders will be brought down to the cafeteria for pick-up.

Christmas Store



The annual SJS Christmas Store will be held on Wednesday, December 2nd in the school gymnasium. Each grade, including Pre-Kindergarten, will have an opportunity to shop for immediate family members during school hours. There will be a wide variety of items for students to select from, costing anywhere from $1.00 and $10.00.

On Tuesday, December 1st, all students will be sent home with a RED ENVELOPE. Please write the people your child/ren are shopping for on the front of the envelope and enclose cash for those purchases. Parent volunteers will be on hand to help the younger children select items within their budget. Each student may purchase for UP TO FOUR individuals.



STUDENT COUNCIL

SJS middle school students running for a spot on the Student Council recently addressed their peers to share ways in which, if elected, they hope to make a difference within the school community. All SJS 6th - 8th grade students voted after watching the speeches. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and willingness to get involved.

This year's Student Council will be as follows:

President: Edward Harris (Gr. 8)
Vice President: Leroy Smith (Gr. 7)
Secretary: Maxwell Hetherington (Gr. 6)

8th Grade Reps: Penny Leitao, Ella Sheehan
7th Grade Reps: Melanie Devanney, Jillian Starnick
6th Grade Reps: Dylan Kupiecki, Adrianna Palomino, Ziva Piolunek

2026-2027 RELIGION THEME



This year, our school-wide religion theme is "The Story of Salvation: The Story of All Stories!" Throughout the year, our students will explore the beautiful story of God's love and His plan of salvation in ways that are meaningful and age-appropriate for each grade level.

Each month, we will focus on a different chapter of salvation history, from Creation and the Fall to God's chosen people, the Exodus, the prophets, and the birth of Jesus. As the year progresses, students will reflect on the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church as shared in the Acts of the Apostles.

Through these stories, students will discover how each part of the Bible connects to the next, revealing God's unwavering love and faithfulness throughout history. Most importantly, they will learn that the story of salvation is not simply a story from the past, but a living story in which we all have a part to play today. As they deepen their understanding of God's love, students will be encouraged to put their faith into action by following Jesus' example and growing as faithful disciples who share His love with others.