



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



December 19, 2024

Empowering students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.

Dear Parents and Staff,

On behalf of our Pastor and President, Fr. Alan Tremblay, and the entire faculty and staff of St. Joseph Regional School and Our Lady of Mercy Academy, we wish all of our families a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May you celebrate anew the birth of the Prince of Peace in your hearts and in your homes. As 2025 nears, may you also be prepared to ring in the Jubilee Year, as "Pilgrims of Hope", a hope founded on our knowledge that God loves us and has given us all a special trust in caring for the beautiful students of SJRS and OLMA.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and of our shared mission to educate our students in their faith.

In His service,

Miss Victoria Farrington
Principal

MATTHEW 1:23

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon-Fri 12/23-1/3/25 -- Christmas Break -- NO SCHOOL

Monday 1/6/2025 -- School resumes

Wednesday 1/8 -- All-school Mass -- 9:30am

Friday 1/10 -- Alpine Club begins at Crotched Mountain! (see details below)

Mon-Fri 1/13-17 -- Midterm Exams

Thursday 1/16 -- Winter Arts Showcase

Friday 1/17 -- End of the semester

[CLICK HERE](#) for the **UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR**



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On the third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For

this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.



Mass Schedule
CHRISTMAS
Tuesday, December 24
St. Bernard Church 4:00PM
St. Joseph Church 4:00PM
St. Joseph Church: a music prelude will begin at 3:30PM
St. Margaret Mary Church 7:00PM
Wednesday, December 25
St. Bernard Church
12:00AM Midnight Mass
9:00AM

*****IMPORTANT: VENMO ACCOUNT CLOSED*****

Please note that **we have closed our school Venmo account** effective immediately. All payments to the school must be made via FACTS in the future. If you have questions about this, please contact Kate in the SJRS Main Office (kate@stjosephkeene.org).



CONGRATULATIONS to our new **National Honor Society (NHS)** members, who were inducted on December 9!

- Madelyn Carlson (Grade 11)
- Liam Crisman (Grade 11)
- Elio Saba (Grade 11)
- Sofia Belen Vicente-DiGiovanni (Grade 10)

Our current NHS officers helped to induct the new members, highlighting the four NHS pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character as they lit candles representing each pillar at the ceremony.

SJRS/OLMA FAMILY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

In January, we would like to put together a directory of all of the businesses owned by SJRS and OLMA families, so that we can share that information to encourage the support of those businesses within our school communities. If you own a business, please send along to Kate (kate@stjosephkeene.org) your business name and contact information that you would like to share. We will only include those businesses whose owners let us know that it is OK to do so. THANK YOU!



This week everyone worked together to create this festive scene in the Masiello Room. Every student decorated their own stocking to hang by the chimney with care! A special shoutout to Mr. Cardine for his incredible work!

FEATURED STUDENT-ATHLETE Kyle Paolino (Junior)

Kyle has been swimming competitively since 5th grade. Currently he swims for the Clark YMCA Sharks and the Conant High School teams. His favorite stroke is the backstroke.

GOOD LUCK this season, Kyle!





This week, Ms. Avril's Culinary Exploration and Baking classes made scrumptious **Christmas breakfasts!** On the menu were homemade waffles, whipped cream, strawberries, and bacon. They also made some festive gingerbread men and sugar cookies this week!



MacKinley, our new best friend from Monadnock Therapy Pets, stopped by to spread some Christmas cheer this week!





HOUSE MERCHANDISE

Beeze Tees has put together a great House merchandise store for us -- **just in time for Christmas gift giving!**

CLICK HERE to check out the House merch store!





Each week during Advent, our school community has taken a few minutes to gather quietly before lunch on Mondays with Mr. Sully to light the candles of our Advent wreath in the Masiello Room.

SJRS/OLMA ALPINE CLUB NEWS from club coordinator Wendy Petschik

Don't forget to sign up for the SJRS/OLMA Alpine Club for another fun season of skiing and riding with the Slope Days Program at Crotched Mountain! All SJRS and OLMA students ages 7-18 are welcome—there are no capacity limits so we can accommodate anyone who wants to join us. **The Program begins Friday, January 10th. Sign up today!**



If you haven't already added your name to the Master Email Contact List, please do so using the link below to be included in our master email list.

If you already have a season pass and don't need lessons, you don't need to register through Crotched Mountain—but please still sign up on the Google Doc to receive club updates.

Master Email Contact List - use this link for Alpine Club email list:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18BJtsZusqbVvfnFtsDJXnGRQGk1COe0G0d6ODXyJwU/edit?usp=sharing>

Crotched Mountain Slope Days Program details – USE SCHOOL CODE SJK25 to sign up

Our scheduled mountain time is Fridays with lessons starting promptly at 5:00 PM from Friday, January 10th - Friday, February 14th.

New this year – two session lengths (3 & 6 weeks) and a la carte for season pass holders

3 Week (lift/lesson/rental) \$209

6 Week (lift/lesson/rental) \$408

Use this link to sign up for the products above and enter the school code SJK25:

<https://www.crotchedmtn.com/plan-your-trip/ski-and-ride-lessons/products/slope-days>

A la cart option for season pass holders (Epic/Epic Local/Northeast Value)

3-week option, lesson: \$95

6-week option, lesson: \$189

3-week option, rental: \$79

6-week option, rental: \$158

You must call or email to register for any a la cart options at 603-842-7549 or email crotchedmtngroupsales@vailresorts.com and give them the SJK25 school code.

Detailed Instructions for How to Sign Up

To help streamline the distribution of information, I have also provided a detailed document with all the information repeated from above and instructions for signing up for the Slope Days at Crotched which can be found by clicking the link below.

Link with detailed information and sign-up instructions

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C71kV9BmoEGGo4sgbuH2t6JI5zsWk87E5wk_U7pPkA/edit?usp=sharing

I am so excited for snow and the slope-side fun to begin!! If you have any questions, please email Wendy Petschik at wpetschik@stjosephkeene.org.



Our Lady of Mercy Academy | 161 Main Street | Keene, NH 03431 US

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