



# SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL

founded - 1963

## December Highlights 2019

### "O, What a Special Night!" SJS Christmas Concert - Wed, Dec 5

Mr. Lovelace outdid himself again this year with a spectacular variety of Christmas songs, an array of instruments, and even some in-concert music lessons. Strong performances by our 5th Grade Recorders, our 6th Grade Orchestra, 7th & 8th Grade piano and guitar leads, and our 8th Grade Bells could be heard throughout the show, with joyful singing as usual (and some dancing) from our PreK-8th Grade Student Body Choir. We laughed, we cried, we were moved spiritually, and we all left thanking God for our many blessings.



### First Friday - Fri, Dec 7

We visited with our Lord in the Holy Eucharist last week for our First Friday celebration. After an all-school Mass, Father John Dowling, Pastor of Holy Ghost Church, led us in Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Each class spent some time in prayer and Adoration in the chapel, culminating with Benediction, led by Deacon Mike Eiffe of Saint Albert the Great, to close the day. We are blessed to have Jesus in our midst.

### Mr. Aboumoussa's Faith Videos Featured on NCEA!

As you already know, Mr. Joe Aboumoussa is an excellent filmmaker and catechist. You may not know that recently, his faith videos were shared by the National Catholic Education Association. His videos were included in the NCEA's weekly email to the nation's Catholic school principals and are now posted on the NCEA website for Advent resources. Want to watch and learn? Please visit:

[https://www.ncea.org/NCEA/Learn/Advent\\_Resources/NCEA/Learn/Resource/Advent/Advent\\_Resources.aspx?hkey=463deaca-0e9f-4416-b3cb-dc7c98cff20d](https://www.ncea.org/NCEA/Learn/Advent_Resources/NCEA/Learn/Resource/Advent/Advent_Resources.aspx?hkey=463deaca-0e9f-4416-b3cb-dc7c98cff20d)



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### **Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Dec 12**

Last Wednesday, Father Steve Pawelk, Pastor of Saint Teresa of Kolkata, celebrated Mass for us on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the end of Mass, students performed a wonderful skit that told the story of Saint Juan Diego and the miraculous image our Lady left on his tilma. As our students headed back to their classrooms, they were given sweets and a prayer card provided by Mrs. Rankin and members of our Latino family community. Special thanks to Mrs. Lourdes Lopez, Mrs. Aline Vaiciunas, and Mr. John Gensheimer for their help!



### **Baby Shower for Jesus Service Project – December**

One way to bring about a Culture of Life in our nation is to make it easier for women in difficult situations to welcome their unborn child into the world. This is the mission of Catholic Charities' Pregnancy Help Center. Saint Joseph School collected much needed baby clothes, wipes, diapers, etc. throughout the month of December to benefit those families. Mrs. Sandi Davidson, Director of the center, wrote in her thank you note: "The baby items we received mean so much to the mothers and fathers we have the privilege of serving and blesses them more than you can imagine. A simple package of diapers can determine whether some of our clients eat that week. Please know that you are making a difference."

### **First Semester Awards – Dec 20**

We took some time on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> to recognize our students for their achievements throughout the first semester. Primary grades held their Awards Ceremonies in the classrooms while Grades 3-8 welcomed parents to the Gymnasium. Besides all the stellar performances and improvements in academics, Mr. Whittingham recognized those Middle School students who exceeded their service hour requirements. By the mid-point of the school year, one-third of our Middle School has recorded an average of more than 48 service hours – more than double the annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade requirement of 24!



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## ***La Pastorela* – A Mexican Christmas Story – Dec 22**

Just after school let out for Christmas break, our Hispanic Community put on *La Pastorela* – a Christmas narrative that follows the shepherds on their way to worship the Christ child. The event took place on our SJS stage in the Gym and was attended by about 100 people. Besides the beautiful acting, costumes, music, and sets, the event really highlights the big picture of the Christmas story in salvation history. Many thanks to Jose Ceballos, Jorge Quiroz, Gabriel Quiroz, and Charles Primm for their parts in putting on the show!

