

St. John the
Evangelist Catholic School

The Messenger



ST. John Catholic School

Giving Thanks for 142 Years

December, 2016

Advent is here. The season that usually gets the short end of the stick as we jump right from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Advent is an important time, though, and deserves its due. It is a time of anticipation, preparation and hope, not for the man in the red suit, but for the coming of our Lord. To prepare for Advent, St. John School brought the class Advent wreaths to Mass to be blessed. They are used daily in morning prayer. Each grade will contribute links to an Advent chain of prayer to be hung in our cafeteria. Students light the Advent wreath during Mass and when we return, the younger students will present the gifts of the Magi at the first school Mass in January. Yes, our students are excited about Christmas, but they are also learning that this time of year is about preparing their hearts for Jesus rather than just preparing their Christmas list.

Sunset Gala Dinner, Dance & Auction



St. John Catholic School held its third Gala the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Through the generous donations of so many people, we were able to raise \$56,000! This will be used to improve our building with new air conditioner's in some of the classrooms and upgraded technology. And, dare I say it, start of a new gymnasium fund?

The Growth of Morning Star

Our Morning Star program for students with special needs is expanding. We have opened a second classroom to accommodate the desires of parents to have their child receive a Catholic education regardless of abilities.

Thanks to some very generous grants, we have begun renovating our library to bring two classrooms under one roof. This will also put the Morning Star students closer to the main school building where they attend Religion class as well as special classes like art and music.

To learn more about our Morning Star program, please click on the link below.

[**Learn More**](#)



Veteran's Day Celebrations

Veteran's Day is special to our school due to our 142 year relationship with our Naval Base. St. John the Evangelist Catholic School actually began right on the base and was located, as best as we can tell, at the corner of Dallas and Wall Streets. We didn't leave the base until the then Secretary of Defense, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, sent a letter requesting the school and church to move into the new Warrington area in August of 1917. Because of our relationship, St. John school feels strongly about our men and women in uniform. We end each day praying for the men and women of the armed forces. Many of our faculty are veteran's too.

This year we continued our annual tradition and took cards and snacks to the Naval Hospital to say thank you to our veterans. We kept the celebration going with an assembly that afternoon in our cafeteria. Led by Captain McNinch, students spoke of the history of Veteran's Day, sang patriotic songs and were treated to a talk by Petty Officer Mario Escobar. Throughout the program, we enjoyed a slideshow of fathers, mothers, grandfathers, etc. who serve(d) our country. The program ended with the playing of all five Armed Forces Service Songs to honor the many veteran's in attendance. It was a moving day.

We are St. John School...



SJS Gifted Program

K3 Bear Hunt

K3 went on a bear hunt recently. They created maps, made 'goniculares' (or binoculars to the rest of us), and followed bear tracks around the school. The bear left goodies at a few of the places on their search until they located him in their playhouse. Thank goodness he was a friendly bear!



What do straw rockets, escape rooms, and toothpick engineering all have in common. It is just some of the things our Gifted Teacher, Mrs. Durden, has done with the 5th - 8th grade students in our program. After attending a 4 day conference for Gifted Coordinators in Orlando, Mrs. Durden is ready to expand the pull-out Gifted program to younger grades as well.



Serving Others

One part of being a student at St. John Catholic School is serving others. Through the different clubs and classrooms, students are given an opportunity to give back. Our National Junior Honor Society members visited the Pearl Nelson Child Development Center and helped with their carnival. This month, Student Council students, along with several of our ukulele and guitar players visited the Haven to sing Christmas Carols and provide companionship if only for a few moments.

Do you recognize this St. John Alum?

We are looking for old pictures of our St. John family to spotlight in this newsletter. If you have one, we would love to use it. We can scan it and return it to you on the same day!

[Click here for the Class picture!](#)



SHOW YOUR ST. JOHN



PRIDE!

Click on the link below to send us your name and address and we will mail you one of our car magnets the very next day.

[CLICK HERE](#)



"...we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2

May your Christmas and the following year be full of God's grace and mercies. Thank you for being a part of our family.

 Forward to a Friend

Sincerely,

Ann Williams
St. John Catholic School

St. John Catholic School

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<http://www.stjohnpensacola.com/school.html>

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