



Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



December 7, 2023

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

Greetings OLMA Families, Faculty, and Staff:

I hope that everyone had a restful Thanksgiving break with family and friends!

It has been a difficult week with the passing of Deacon Ken. As many of you know, he has been such a beautiful, steady presence in our school community these past 10 years. He loved being a part of our schools, and I always knew that I could count on him. I will miss him tremendously, and I know many of the faculty and students will miss him as well. We will be keeping him and his family in our prayers.

I have begun the St. Andrew Christmas Novena each morning with the faculty and staff. I have found this is a wonderful way to start our days together throughout Advent. If you would like to participate, below is the prayer. It is repeated 15 times each day until Christmas.

St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and Blessed be the hour and the moment

At which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin

At a stable at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold.

At that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, To hear my prayers and Grant my desires

Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother.

I was thrilled this week to have our very first ever National Honor Society induction ceremony. It joins with so many of the other important "firsts" that we have had over these past few years, and demonstrates the continued progress that we are making as we grow Mercy Academy. Congratulations to all of the students who were inducted!

It has been a wonderful time as we enter into Advent and the expectation of the coming of Christ. This is a reflective time for all. I have begun my annual Advent surprises for each of the classes. Be sure to ask your children about the various fun activities that are happening over the next few weeks!

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,

Christopher Smith
Principal

MARK 13:33-37

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 12/8 – All-school Mass – 9:30am (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)

come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Tuesday 12/12 – Jazz Ensemble Christmas Concert at SJRS – 12:45-1:15pm
Wednesday 12/13 – All-School Mass – 9:30am
Friday 12/15 – School Dance – 7-9pm
Thurs-Tues 12/21-1/2/24 – **NO SCHOOL** – **Christmas Break**
Wednesday 1/3/24 – Return to school

[CLICK HERE for the 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

The Advent Wreath's first candle, which is purple, symbolizes HOPE. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

We have lots of great OLMA gear available for your Christmas shopping!

Zeiger & Ollie Stores

These online stores are created by our very own Miss Wilson and include fun merchandise specific to all of the Houses!

AQUINAS

DROGO

JOSEPHINE

URSULA





Earlier this week, Our Lady of Mercy Academy held their very first ever induction ceremony for the **National Honor Society**! Congratulations to all of the inducted students who were recognized for their character, scholarship, leadership and service: Sophomores Atticus Eden, Dean Kangas, Sullivan Murray, Kyle Paolino, Ethan Petschik, Torin Regney, Andreea Rusu, Alyvia Singleton, and Ethan Young. Juniors Francis Cardine, Gracein Jasmin, Morgan Murray, and Elice Soddors. Seniors Greta Fenn and Tessa Pearson.



OUR 50/50 RAFFLE WINNERS:

1st Prize – \$5,000 – LaQuerre Family (sold by the LaQuerres) (And a big THANK YOU to the LaQuerres for generously donating a portion of their prize back to SJRS!!)

2nd Prize – \$3,000 – Pann Su Hmwe (sold by V. Chow)

3rd Prize – \$2,000 – Christine Colby (sold by E. Colby)

4th Prize – \$1,000 – Carmela Lucich (sold by J. Wright)

5th Prize – \$1,000 – Amber Rodenas (sold by J. Rodenas)

6th Prize – \$1,000 – Beth Wood (sold by J. Dubois)

7th Prize – \$1,000 – Elizabeth Mooneyhan (sold by P. Mooneyhan)

8th Prize – \$1,000 – Sarah Visser (sold by M. Visser)

Bonus Prize – \$1,000 – Erica Royal (sold by A. Royal)

Our top seller:

Francis Cardine -- 50

CONGRATULATIONS to all! And **THANK YOU** to everyone who sold and purchased tickets! Your support of our schools is



tremendously appreciated!



Yesterday Mrs. Mann took her **Consumer Finance** students to Walier Chevrolet to learn all of the details of the car buying process!



The Mercy Academy Campus Minister, Anthony Sully, led the junior class in their annual **class retreat** yesterday at the KSC Camp at Wilson Pond. He along with Mercy Health/PE teacher Cathy Hart really took the plunge...literally! As they spoke with the students about decision making...prayer, hope, commitment (and finding a crazy friend to join you!), they took a quick

polar plunge to demonstrate. The students spent the rest of the beautiful day together with games, small group discussions, quiet reflection, and prayer. And Saint Nicholas even visited them and left oranges and gold coins in their shoes!



ALPINE CLUB NEWS

As you may know our Alpine Club goes to Crotched Mountain on Fridays in January and February to take lessons and just have fun on the slopes. Since Vail purchased Crotched a few years back, changes have made to the program every year and this year is no exception. They have brought back the idea of a school program coordinator in which I actually get some information sent to me about the program. This year there are some changes in that we cannot use the website to sign up but instead we have to call the Crotched Mountain Ticket office to sign up. Although the website is active and will take orders for the program, you will not get the special discounted pricing for returning schools. Please find the information below to sign up for this year's lessons.



Please put your information on the google doc below so you will continue to receive the email updates and information as I have them.

Google Doc link for Alpine Club email list:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YGxD2VCkvpOPYC2Jqu2o5cf5Qt2OogD577Mvq2h7E5g/edit?usp=sharing>

Crotched Mountain Slope Days Program (formerly Voyager Program) details

Program:

- 6 weeks of lessons
- 2 products: Lift/Lesson/Rental (\$319) **OR** Epic Pass holder package is 6 lessons (\$160)
- students must be age 7-18, unless approved by Crotched Mountain

Schedule:

- Fridays
- Lesson start time: 5 pm

- Starting week Friday 1/12/23
- Ending week Friday 2/16/23
- Make up lessons have not yet been decided upon so be sure you make it to as many lessons as possible

How to Sign Up

The only way you can sign up and get the discounted rate is to call the Crotched Mountain Ticket Office's direct line at 603-842-7534. **When signing up be sure to give them our unique group code of STJ, and just to be sure tell them you are with St. Joseph Regional School which includes Our Lady of Mercy Academy and that you want Friday lessons at 5pm.** Since the negotiations with Vail to continue offering the ski school program for schools that have been loyal to Crotched Mountain were completed after the website was developed for the season, the prices on the website are higher than if you were to call the ticket office. There are only a handful of local SAUs and our school that have been offered this special discounted rate.

If you know of anyone in your group of family or friends that would like to take advantage of this discounted rate, please forward this email to them and have sign up under our school group code of STJ to receive the discounted rate.

Please sign up as soon as possible, as one part of their website has a sign up date of **Sunday, December 10, 2023** and another part has a sign up date of **Friday, December 15th** so sooner than later is always better . While in the past they have been very flexible in their sign up page, I'm not sure how this year will work.

There are additional changes on how rentals forms and weekly lift tickets will be handled so stay tuned for these updates. They did away with chaperone passes but added some other passes so stay tuned for details on that process and I will pass along the information as I receive it. Bottom line is, the more participates with have, the more passes we may receive.

For questions I may not be able to answer, Crotched Mountain has provided the following contact information:

Crotched Mountain Ski and Snowboard School

Office: 603-588-3668

Email: crotchedmtnskischool@vailresorts.com

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. I'm sure there is more information I need to convey, but this should get you going for now!!

Praying for snow,
Wendy Petschik

Newsletters from previous weeks can be found on our website here:

<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/news>



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