



May, 2017

Dear Parents,

Peace! Continued Easter Blessings! There is a powerful quote by Cal Knudsen that reads “The story of Easter is the story of God’s wonderful window of divine surprises.” May the remaining days of Easter season find your eyes and hearts aware of and grateful for the divine surprises that await you.

May begins with our annual Msgr. Pedata Golf Classic. Many thanks to all who have organized the event, all who will play in the event, and all who helped through sponsorships, donations, 50-50 tickets, etc. We are hopeful for a delightful Spring day and a great fun/fundraiser. The rain date is Wednesday, May 3. All proceeds from the event will supplement a tuition scholarship for every student who attends SJA School.

The last VIRTUS session for the 2016-2017 school year will be held on Thursday, May 4, at 7:00pm in the Upper Room. Any parent participating in Field Day or chaperoning the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip must be VIRTUS trained.

Congratulations to our Second Graders and their families as they prepare to receive Jesus in Eucharist for the first time. Pray with and for them during this special sacred time in their faith journey.

The church celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to the three young children of Fatima on May 13. We will celebrate this feast on Wednesday, May 10 at our monthly 9:00 am liturgy. Please plan to join us as we honor Mary the Mother of God. Let’s continue to promote the heart of the Fatima message. May world peace become a reality through our prayer, fasting and devotion to Mary.

Our final PTA meeting for this school year will be Wednesday, May 10. We are hopeful all families will be represented. See you in the cafeteria at 7:00 pm.

Orientation for kindergarten students attending SJA in September 2017 will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2017. We ask that you have your child in the cafeteria by 8:45am. Following our gathering in the cafeteria, children will proceed to the KA/KB classrooms. Please do everything possible to make this a stress free experience. You may pick your child up at 11:15am, in Pedata Hall. At this time we have a few openings for Kindergarten. If you know anyone who is interested please have them call the school office.

There will be a parent meeting on Thursday, May 11, at 7:00pm, in Pedata Hall for NEW families to our school for the 2017-2018 school year. Families with children currently attending SJA School while most welcome, are not required to attend. At this time we will explain school wide policies and procedures.

Happy Mother’s Day to all our Moms, Grandmothers and possibly Great-Grandmothers. Be assured of our prayers for you. May Mary, Mother of God, be your guide and protector. We pray for all our Mothers who now live in the very heart of God. May they rest in eternal peace and joy.



Our PTA will sponsor the Third Annual Handbag Bingo Night on Thursday, May 18, in our school gym, at 7:00pm. It promises to be a great night with lots of fun. Special thanks to all who are working so hard to make it a success. Those attending are asked to bring a small personal item for the women who live in Good Counsel Home. Many thanks.

**School will be closed on Friday, May 19. Our teachers will be attending a local Staff Development Day.**

Plans for The Race for Education have been underway for quite some time. Many thanks for all the work that has already been completed. The actual race will take place on Monday, May 22. Here’s hoping for great weather. Thanks for all the labels you completed for this event. All monies raised go into improving SJA School.

One of our favorite service projects is communicating with our “Christ Friends”. Throughout the year our Fifth Grade students have been praying for and writing to them. There will be a special Healing mass on Wednesday, May 24, at 7:00pm. A reception will follow in Pedata Hall. This is a great faith experience for young and old alike.



The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord will be Thursday, May 25, 2017. We will join the Parish Community for the celebration of Eucharist at the 9:00am liturgy.

Our annual Field Day will be held on Friday, May 26. Thanks to Miss Glick and all who help organize and volunteer your time to manage the events. Hopefully the weather will cooperate. **Reminder: Dismissal will be at 12:30pm.**

Memorial Day is celebrated on Monday, May 29, 2017. Let’s remember to honor all who have served our country in the past and those who are presently on active duty. May we continue to be aware of and grateful for our freedom and peace.

Our fun day celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 31. PTA is in the process of planning activities to celebrate a successful race.

Our Annual Art Show is June 1, 2017 from 7:00-8:30pm. Thanks to Miss Filipek and her committee of children for all the time, talent and energy that makes this event a reality. Please mark your calendars.

Information regarding our annual Talent Show for students in Grades 3-8 will be coming home via the Brown Envelope. Encourage your child to share their God given talents with us. If performing a song, please check to make sure the lyrics are school and age appropriate. It is unfortunate when a child is excited about performing and has to be told that his/her selection is not appropriate. We look forward to an entertaining event. Thanks to Miss Taulane and Mr. Peiffer.



We will celebrate the Diocesan Service Day on Friday, April 28. You still have time to send in any items for Cradles to Crayons and Youth Emergency Services. We will assemble the donations into appropriate containers throughout the day.

Our Girls Softball season is underway. We are grateful to resurrect this sport as it has been 9 years since we had enough interest to field a team. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Golfers begin their Clinic. Thanks to all the coaches for sharing their time, talent and energy with us.

We have completed eight months of school and are in the home stretch. Like baseball, the year isn’t over until the last day. Encourage your children to stay focused, come prepared for class, do their best work, hand in assignments on time, get enough sleep, eat healthy and stay hydrated. We want everyone to have a successful ending.

Earth Day was celebrated while we were on Easter Vacation. Join us, please as we teach our children to treasure and care for our planet. There is a great book “Upstream” by Mary Oliver. It contains selected essays on appreciating the smallest flower to the glorious woods. She reminds us to have our children “Stand in the stream, head them upstream, rejoice as they learn to love this green space they live in, its sticks and leaves and then the silent beautiful blossoms”. Hopefully our Earth day movie will give us a greater appreciation for a different part of our world. Thanks to all who are organizing this event.

In keeping with the Sisters of St. Joseph mission statement you are invited to take the St. Francis Pledge. For more information and to register your pledge please see [www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org/pledge](http://www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org/pledge)

Congratulations to the winners of the Diocesan Respect Life Contest:  
Grades 6-8 Poster Burlington County First Runner up Leah Rottler –Gurley  
Grades 6-8 Poster Burlington County Second Runner up Catherine Garvey  
Grades 6-8 Essays Burlington County First Runner up Justin Seo



A Mass will be celebrated on April 30 at 12:00 pm at our Lady Queen of Peace in Hainesport at which time the Burlington County winners will be recognized and receive their prizes.

In his Easter message, Father Rich challenged us to celebrate the fifty days of Easter. Using the image of the gospel's earthquake, we continue to be challenged to reshape the core of our beings, bringing forth God's Kingdom of peace.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Easter. Alleuia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

God's Blessings!



*Sister Pat*