



April 2024



Dear Parents,

Peace! Holy Week Blessings! Hopefully you were one of the many families who joined us for Palm Sunday liturgy. We will mark this week in school with a mini celebration of the Triduum on Holy Thursday. Included in our day on Holy Thursday will be the washing of the children’s hands by their teachers, a symbol of washing of feet by Jesus to his apostles and sharing crackers and apple juice in their classroom, as a symbol of Jesus giving us his life in the Eucharist. Students will remember Good Friday, weather permitting, by visiting the prayer garden and praying in front of the 3 crosses in front of church. If raining we will walk through the prayer garden virtually, taking time to pray at each statue. In addition to the above, students will visit the Way of the Cross in each classroom. Lastly Holy Saturday will be included by waiting quietly and anticipating the great Feast of Easter. Hopefully this experience will deepen their understanding of these sacred and special days, as this is one of the main reasons you have chosen SJA for your child.

Hopefully you have followed St. Joan of Arc Parish throughout the Lenten Season. Father Rich and Father JM have put time and energy into helping us understand, “**Eucharist: The Heart of Our Journey Together.**” If for some reason you missed any of the Lenten words of the day, you can find them (and their meaning) on the Parish website. Hopefully your child will remember some of them as we began each day reading the word of the day.

**The SJA Parish Holy Week Schedule**

*Holy Thursday – Celebration of the Lord’s Last Supper 7:00 PM*

*Good Friday – Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion 3:00 PM*

*Holy Saturday – The Great Easter Vigil 8:00 PM*

*Easter Sunday – 7:30 AM (Church), 9:00 AM (Church & School Gym), 10:30 (Church & School Gym) and 12:00 PM (Church)*



We return to school on Monday, April 8. This is also the date of the solar eclipse. While we will not take the children outside in the late afternoon to witness the event, we will show some of the day’s events on the classroom promethean boards. This will also be the beginning of Spirit Week. Students may wear SJA spirit wear t-shirts with SJA gym pants/shorts on Monday and Tuesday. We ask that they wear their gym uniforms on Wednesday, April 10, for our Annual Race for Education Day. This is one of our biggest fundraisers that helps keep your tuition reasonable and that the children can participate in. PTA will provide a Mr. Softee treat for all. In an effort to reduce waste, please have your child bring in their reusable water bottle. PTA will NOT be providing single use drinks that day. Thursday and Friday students may continue to wear SJA spirit wear t-shirts with gym pants/shorts. On Friday, students in theater week are to wear their theater week t-shirt and school appropriate dark pants/shorts. Friday we will have our dress rehearsal at 1:00 PM for any family member not able to attend the evening performance. Usually we do our Theater Week in October. Due to a variety of reasons we needed to move it to the Spring. We encourage all families to enjoy a delightful evening. Parents of K-2 are welcome to attend. This will give you firsthand experience of what Theater Week looks like.

We will have a number of seniors from Cherokee providing service at SJA in the morning on Friday, April 12. Many times a number of alumni return for the occasion. We look forward to being with them.



Our Annual Career Week will begin on Monday, April 22. We are so grateful to all who organize and share their careers with us. We are blessed indeed. Your presentations will give us much to think about. Know that you are planting seeds for the future generations. We appreciate your time and talent no matter what direction our young people choose as they move into the adult world. We pray that they will always be rooted in the gospel message, making a positive difference in our world. Career Week begins on Earth Day. As we move through the day, let's be aware of the wonderful gift of God's creation and our responsibility to treasure and care for the earth in whatever way we are able.



We will begin the final Star Assessment April 22 through May 10. Remind your child to take his/her time on each question before moving to the next one. Teachers will give specific directions the day of the assessment.



Trying to arrange a schedule with Vito Del Re and his DEA Team for a Spaghetti Dinner and presentation sometime in May. More details to follow.

The Spring session of after school clubs will begin on Tuesday, April 30 and Thursday, May 2 through May 21 and May 23. Check brown envelope for more information.

What a wonderful year for you and your family if your child is receiving Eucharist for the first time. The entire church has had the opportunity to deepen their understanding and appreciation for the great gift of Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus during this Eucharistic Revival year. Our Lenten practices have added another dimension to our understanding.

**“In the Eucharist, We Adore Christ, We Receive Christ and We Become Christ for Others.”**

Our First Communicants will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, April 27, 2024. We invite all families to pray with and for these communicants during these special preparation days, the day of and the days after their First Holy Communion. Thanks moms and dads for making it possible for your child to be faithful to their Baptismal Commitment in the weeks, months, and years that follow this mile stone in their faith development. They need you to be strong examples of their Catholic faith, bringing them to church regularly. We are so excited they will be able to partake in receiving Eucharist with our parish and school communities. Congratulations and God's Blessings to all!



Our winter sports programs have ended. Thanks to all of our coaches for sharing their time and talent with us. Congratulations to the JV Boys who won the championship game. Spring sports will be starting after Easter. Our Track team will begin their meets after Easter. Good luck to all. More information about golf will be coming in the near future.

Thank you for keeping up to date on your tuition payments on FACTS. Anyone needing financial assistance must first apply for Diocesan Tuition Assistance. The deadline for applying for Diocesan Tuition Assistance for the 2024-2025 school year is May 13, 2024. We ask that all families needing assistance apply online [HERE](#). It is expected that you first apply to the diocese before applying for parish assistance.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the many packages of bread, rolls, muffins, crackers, etc that you have given your child to bring into school for those in need. Your generosity each week fed numerous families and taught your child the power of working together for the good of others. Know that those who visited the pantries couldn't believe they didn't have to choose between a package of hot dog rolls or hamburger buns but could actually have both. I am certain you are the recipient of many prayers from unknown benefactors.

**Thank You!**

It is wonderful how givers and receivers are united. Yes, Eucharist is the Bridge to Unity. Throughout these Lenten days the words from the Our Father that we pray, *"GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD"*, have taken on a much deeper meaning for many.



We will continue our Bread of Life collection the week of April 8. In keeping with the Easter Season, we are asking for some kind of shelf stable "desserts", cake mix, brownie mix, icing, cookies, tasty cakes, etc. Thanks again for your kindness and generosity to those in need.

The first Monday of our Easter vacation is the traditional April Fool's Day. We, as Catholics, are challenged to be Fools for Jesus. May our kids be the ones who do what appears to be "foolish" but in reality are "Being Eucharist". May they be the one to reach out to others when others turn their back. May they be the one who refuses to get caught up in gossip. May they be the one who speaks kind words when on Group Chat. The list goes on and on. We encourage you to engage your child, no matter their age, in conversation about the above.

During the snow week back in January, I had the opportunity to read an article from the Columbian Mission about our Internal Life and Eternal Life. Throughout these Easter Days may our Internal Life be filled with the Risen Life of Jesus. May His peace, joy, love, hope and courage be part of our every day choices preparing us for our Eternal Life.

Happy Easter! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

God's Blessings,

*Sister Pat*

