



# CRUSADER CONNECTION



## UPCOMING AT ST. JOE

November 21: No School - Teacher In-Service  
November 24-25: No School - Teacher In-Service  
November 26-28: No School - Thanksgiving Break  
December 2: Scholar's Bowl @ Resurrection  
December 2: Chick-fil-A Spirit Night



**Our preschoolers are wishing  
you all a blessed and fun  
Thanksgiving break!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Christmas Scrip for Staff:** An email was sent earlier but, as a reminder, if you're looking for ideas and searching for a convenient way to gift any of our St. Joseph Parish or School Staff members this Christmas season, we invite you to consider the Christmas Scrip program. Attached you will find a letter with all the information regarding the Scrip program as well as the sheet allocating the amount you would like to give. Please read the letter carefully and if you have any questions feel free to contact the school office.

**Crusader Market:** With the Christmas shopping season upon us, don't forget to check out our Crusader Market! We have uniform sweatshirts, school and parish spirit wear, drinking glasses, and stainless steel tumblers & mugs. To be able to send orders home before the holiday break (by Dec 19th), all orders must be placed by December 6th! [St. Joe Crusader Market Link](#)

**Scholar's Bowl Teams:** Our 7th/8th grade Scholar's Bowl Teams will be traveling to Resurrection on **Tuesday, Dec. 2nd**. Let's all wish them well!

**CCHS Applications Due 11/21:** Parents of 8th graders who plan to enroll at BCCHS next year, just a reminder that the BCCHS application/fee is due tomorrow, **Nov. 21st** and the "Letter of Application Essay" to your Parish Pastor is due **Dec. 5th**.

**Dress Code Reminder:** There's been so much growth this year, not only spiritually and academically, but also physically...and some of our student's uniforms are showing it. Please take the extended Thanksgiving Break and Christmas Break to look over your child's school uniform materials and assess if they are "up to snuff" in meeting our school's dress code. In particular, we're noticing some short skirts (hem must hit the top of the knee). If your child is in need of a uniform adjustment, please be sure to take advantage of the Thanksgiving Break and/or Christmas Break to make those changes. Thank you in advance.

**Thanksgiving Break:** It's hard to believe, but Thanksgiving Break is here! School will not be in session this **Friday, Nov. 21st** (LETRS training) and for the entire Thanksgiving Week, **Nov. 24th-28th**. Our school faculty will be attending a teacher convention **Monday, Nov. 24th** and **Tuesday, Nov. 25th** will be a professional development day at St. Joe, Ost. We would like to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!!

**Looking Ahead:** With December quickly approaching I thought I would give some dates of upcoming events.

Dec. 2nd—Chick-fil-A Spirit Night  
Dec. 2nd—Scholar's Bowl @Resurrection  
Dec. 5th— St. Nick Visits  
Dec. 8th—Holy Day of Obligation (no school)  
Dec. 11th—K-8 Christmas Program @7pm (St. Joseph Catholic Church in Andale)  
Dec. 12th—Spirit Day  
Dec. 18th—AR Store  
Dec. 19th—1:00pm Dismissal  
Dec. 20th—Jan. 5th—Christmas Break  
Jan. 6th—School Resumes



St. Joseph Ost Catholic Church

St. Joseph Catholic School



## Christmas Scrip for St. Joe Staff

Dear St. Joseph Ost School Families,

Each year, families inquire about gifts and showing appreciation to the staff during the Christmas season. We have decided to offer families a rewarding and convenient way to show your appreciation to staff during this joyous Christmas Season. Of course, there is absolutely no obligation, but if you're looking for an idea, here is how it works!

Using the attached sheet, simply designate the desired gift you would like to give next to each staff member's name you would like to gift. Any "dollar" amount is great from \$1 on up! **Send the allocation sheet and cash or check (payable to St. Joseph Scrip Program) in a sealed envelope to the school office by Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025.** Please understand no money will be accepted after this date, as we need time to acquire and sort the Scrip (gift) cards. The monies will be pooled for each individual staff member/teacher and will be used to purchase a Scrip (gift) card to a vendor of the staff members choosing and delivered to them on December 19th. A Christmas card with each staff member's desired Scrip gift card choices will be given to each staff member with a list reflecting the names of the families who helped purchase their gift. No dollar amounts will be listed with the names. Your shopping is done and the staff receives a gift that provides them the flexibility to purchase based on their individual needs!

We hope that you will consider Scrip (gift) cards as a gift option for the St. Joseph staff. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.

May you have a blessed Advent season and a Merry Christmas!



Ora et Labora—Pray and work

  
**Staff Christmas Scrip Gift**  


Parish & School Staff		
Pastor	Fr. Bernard Gorges	\$ _____
Principal	Liz Charles	\$ _____
Parish Secretary	Pam May	\$ _____
School Secretary	Stacey Spexarth	\$ _____
Youth Director/Communications Director	Brady Schwartz	\$ _____
Parish Stewardship & Liturgy Director	Wanda Day	\$ _____
Elementary		
Preschool	Kelli Kohman	\$ _____
Kindergarten	Jennifer Bauserman	\$ _____
Kindergarten	Bridget Schneider	\$ _____
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Sr. Mary Teresa, IHM	\$ _____
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Brooklyn Kennedy	\$ _____
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Gloria Puetz	\$ _____
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Stephanie May	\$ _____
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Sami Fairchild	\$ _____
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Whitney Osborn	\$ _____
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Kelby Schawe	\$ _____
Middle School & Specials		
MS Math & Social Studies	Karla Brown	\$ _____
MS Science & Essential Skills	Theresa Kremer	\$ _____
MS Religion & ELA	Jenny Peloquin	\$ _____
P.E. & MS Essential Skills	Stacie Clupny	\$ _____
Music & Organ	Aidan Hill	\$ _____
Support Staff		
Special Ed Teacher	Brenda Doonan	\$ _____

Support Staff Continued		
Librarian / SPED Para	Ann Meng	\$ _____
Title I Teacher	Angela Gorges	\$ _____
Speech Pathologist	Vanessa Searl	\$ _____
Paraprofessional	Lakken Horsch	\$ _____
Paraprofessional	Sarah Beying	\$ _____
School Nurse	Ely Gorges	\$ _____
Bus Driver	Angelica Lorg	\$ _____
Bus Driver	Rick Ries	\$ _____
Afternoon Latchkey	Ellie Casper	\$ _____
Kitchen		
Food Service Director	Kim Gooding	\$ _____
Food Service Support/Morning Latchkey	Annette Doll	\$ _____
Food Service Bookkeeper /Classroom para support	Sarah Olsen	\$ _____
Maintenance		
Maintenance	Lee Brown	\$ _____
Maintenance	Kevin Pauly	\$ _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT  
 BY Tuesday, 12/2/25 TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
 ST. JOSEPH SCRIP PROGRAM.**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for choosing to acknowledge our hard working staff through our Scrip Program!





# St. Joseph Ost Catholic Church

## St. Joseph Catholic School



Dear School Families,

November and December bring colder temperatures, holiday cheer, and unfortunately, a spike in childhood illnesses. Winter is a peak season for illnesses like RSV, the flu, strep throat and the common cold. As the cold weather sets in, parents often worry about whether their children will stay healthy through the season. Understanding these illnesses, what to look for with symptoms, how to prevent them, and having a primary care physician available for care can help you keep your children healthy this winter season. Need help understanding what symptoms might be or what you can do to help your child? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) is a great resource to find educational information.

### HELPFUL TIPS!

The following list is just a few tips that can help prevent winter illnesses in children. Please know, all children are different and can present with symptoms unique to them. Please continue to follow the school guidelines for illnesses located in the online student handbook at <https://sjost.com/about-us/important-documents>.

- Adults and children should wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of viruses. Please help children to remember to wash hands before and after meals; after using the bathroom; after sneezing, coughing, or blowing their nose and after coming home from school.
- Encourage your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow, not their hands. Dispose of tissues immediately and wash hands afterward.
- Regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, toys and phones or tablets.
- If someone in your household or at school is sick, try to limit close contacts. If your child is showing signs of illness, please keep them home to prevent spreading germs to others.
- Ensure your child is dressed appropriately for cold weather. While cold weather itself doesn't cause illness, being chilled can weaken the immune system. Encourage children to wear layers, hats, gloves and scarves to stay warm.
- Support your child's immune system with nutritious meals, hydration and adequate sleep. A great way to do that is to offer plenty of fruit, vegetables, lean proteins and whole grains. You can also encourage water intake throughout the day. Students are welcome to keep water bottles at school to help them stay hydrated during the school day. And lastly, help promote bedtime routines to maintain sleep health, while allowing children to get around 8-12 hours of sleep when suitable.
- Help your children when ill by monitoring symptoms at home and having a plan for when to seek medical attention from a primary care physician.

Thank you,

Ely Gorges (School Nurse)



# St. Joseph Ost Catholic Church

## St. Joseph Catholic School






# Christmas Is Love

It is time once again for all of us to have the opportunity to share our love and generosity with those less fortunate than ourselves.

- Who:** Everyone is invited to participate.  
**What:** Giving a Christmas gift to a child in New Mexico (newborn – 18 years of age).  
**When:** Thanksgiving Day Mass, **November 27**, at 9am, during offertory  
**Where:** St. Joseph, Ost

The Sisters at the St. Paul Mission in Crownpoint, NM need our help! They greatly appreciate the gifts that we provide each year for the children they serve. The money we collect at Thanksgiving Mass offertory will go towards the essential needs of the mission and their parish. Children can bring their gifts to the school office if they will not be there for Thanksgiving Mass. Please include at least one item from each of the following categories to ensure all children receive a quality gift: What a great way to start off the season by GIVING!

Wrap your gift in Christmas wrapping paper, using a box about the size of a shoe box. No bows, please. Please write on the outside of the gift, if it is intended for a GIRL or BOY, and the SIZE of the clothing.

Clothing 	Religious Item 	Toy 	Candy/Treat 	Misc. 
These must be new or like new:  Jeans Sweats Dress T-shirt Jacket Socks Gloves Stocking hat Etc.	Holy card Coloring book Rosary Saint book Little Statue plaque Prayer book Scapular Etc.	Any age appropriate toy:  Colors Crafts Puzzles Books Playing cards Games Play-Doh Etc.	Once again make sure it is age appropriate:  Christmas candy Cookies Gummy snacks Beef jerky Etc.	Toothpaste Tooth brush Comb/brush Hair clips Hair bands Shampoo Soap Deodorant Lotion Cologne Nail polish Etc.

Thank you so much for participating. Questions, please call Angela Gorges 258-6479

# Spirit Night

## Community Fundraiser



Tuesday, Dec. 2 • 3-10pm  
Chick-fil-A 21st and Maize

Chick-fil-A will donate 20% of  
all sales from supporters back to

St. Joseph  
Catholic School

Tell your order taker that  
you are there for Spirit  
Night! For mobile orders,  
please use the organization  
code "community" for the  
community cares event.



Organization Code:  
community  
(case sensitive)



# ACTIVITIES

*from this week*



7th grade continued learned about what elements make up the foods of Thanksgiving!



The 8th graders created symbols of their Saint report saints to place into "stained glass windows." We definitely practiced the virtues of patience and optimism!

We are so proud of our middle school girls basketball teams! Thank you to everyone who supported them at their home games! Way to go ladies!

