



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
ACADEMY

THE GUARDIAN

OMNIA IN EXCELLENTIA

DECEMBER
2017

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

Happy Advent!

I want to share with each of you a reflection I read some years ago from a devotional which quotes from Fr. Frances Fernandez, who was close to one of our patron saints, St. Josemaria Escriva:

Christmas Is for Everyone, Without Exception

In a few days it will be Christmas, a great feast for us Christians, but also for the whole human race, which, without knowing it, is looking for Christ... The Child we have been contemplating in the crib... is the Redeemer of the world and of every one in it. (In Conversation with God, Vol.1)

Christmas is not just one among many celebrations at this time of the year, whether we are speaking of Hanukkah or Kwanzaa or any other festival celebrated in December. Christmas is the festival for all, without exception. At Christmas, love wins! Love became flesh. Darkness, although still very much around us, is broken. What everyone has been looking for — whether they are Christian or Muslim or Jewish or Buddhist or atheist — is in that crib.

The human heart is restless, as St. Augustine said, until it finds Love. That love is the infant in the crib. No applause, no network of friends, no romance, no marriage, no fantasy, no banker, no gadget or toy can satisfy the wound in the human heart.

Some, because of unfortunate upbringings and experiences, have a deeper wound that is more obvious — the desperate emotional signs leap out at a perceptive observer. But, all of us, even those of us highly fortunate to have had mostly healthy experiences, still have a wound that other humans like us just cannot meet. Only God made flesh in the crib can fill that cavity in the human heart. It is, as others have said, a God-sized cavity. That is why Christmas emphasizes joy and peace, gaudium et pax!

So the Christmas crib is not just a quaint custom for cultural Christians. The Christmas crib contains the definitive solution for all persons everywhere. That is why Christmas is not just one of many festivals. Christmas is, objectively speaking, the singularly decisive festival of this season and all seasons--the festival that leads directly to Good Friday and the Resurrection.

May God grace you and your family with His love during this season of Advent, and may our joy and witness draw others to the Face that each of us is seeking, whether we realize it or not — the Face of the Christ child!

In the Peace of Christ,

Peter Fletcher
President & Headmaster

CALENDAR

Dec 4-8	Adoration Week
Dec 6	ROOTED Adoration Night @ 6:00pm
Dec 6	March for Life Final Payment DUE
Dec 12	PTO Hamburger Drive
Dec 12	Christmas Play @ 6:00pm
Dec 13	OPEN HOUSE @ 8:15am
Dec 14	Totus Tuus Thursday
Dec 18	Jan. Lunch Orders DUE
Dec 19-21	Upper School Midterm Exams; NOON DISMISSAL (All grades)
Dec 21	Holiday Sweater Day
Dec 22 - Jan 3	Christmas Break
Jan 4-5	NO CLASS / Faculty Professional Development
Jan 8	Spring Semester Begins
Jan 15-20	March for Life Pilgrimage



Fr. Rene Pellessier takes home 1st Place People's Choice Award at this year's Collarney Cook Off, dethroning the reigning champion, Fr. Bryce Sibley.

JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY IS A SMALL, CATHOLIC, COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

— THAT PRESERVES AND PROMOTES THE SACRED TRADITIONS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH —

JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE

TOURS AT 8:15 AM | R.S.V.P. RECOMMENDED

December 13 & February 7



CHRISTMAS PLAY —

Join us for our annual Lower School Christmas Play on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00pm in the gymnasium. Oh come let us adore Him!



HAMBURGER DRIVE — Please support our PTO through our Hamburger Drive. You may pre-order a hamburger and bag of chips for \$6 via the order form in the Weekly Reminders email. Orders will be ready for pick-up on Tuesday, December 12 from 3:00-5:00pm (right before the Lower School Christmas Play). Orders are due by December 4.



CHRISTMAS

SWEATER DAY —

To bring in the holiday cheer, students may wear a holiday sweater or t-shirt to school on Thursday, December 21.



ST. NICHOLAS FACULTY & STAFF

GIFT FUND — In an effort to show our gratitude and appreciation for our faculty and staff, a faculty and staff gift fund will be set up again this year! This is also to simplify things for those of you who would be going out to purchase gifts. There is NO obligation to participate, and NO amount is too small. Our teachers also appreciate any homemade gifts and cards, as we do not want this fund drive to discourage such thoughtful expressions of gratitude. More importantly, we ask you to please join us in giving our teachers and staff an eternal gift in the form of a spiritual bouquet (prayers, sacrifices, holy hour, mass offerings, novenas etc.).

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the St. Nicholas Teacher Gift Fund, please send your gift to the front office in a sealed envelope labeled "PTO" by December 20th. Make checks payable to JPG Teacher Fund. Your donation is tax deductible. Corporate donations are also greatly appreciated. On the last day of school before Christmas break, each teacher and staff member will receive a card including a spiritual bouquet and the monetary gift from the PTO. Please contact Ashley Anderson if you would like to offer a spiritual bouquet for a specific teacher or staff member (ashleyanderson77@yahoo.com).



Our first ROOTED Adoration Night in November was a huge success! Over forty of you came to sing praise and worship, hear Kelly Pease speak, and adore Jesus in the Eucharist. Join us for the next ROOTED night on December 6!

NEW STUDENTS AT JPG — Families wishing to enroll a new student at JPG in any grade in the fall should follow the normal Admissions Process as outlined on the website: jpgacademy.org/admissions. The first step is to contact the Admissions Office at your earliest convenience (mollym@jpgacademy.org or tmccaulley@jpgacademy.org). The time to do this is now! Spots are filling up quickly for next year!



ADORATION WEEK

December 4-8

We are blessed to have our Sacred Heart of Jesus Perpetual Adoration Chapel where we can adore Jesus in the Eucharist, any day and anytime, right in the heart of our campus.

The goal of Adoration Week is to bring awareness to the blessing of our Perpetual Adoration Chapel on campus and to fill vacant hours.

Our Adoration Chapel has **13 VACANT HOURS** in need of committed adorers!

Want to commit to a weekly hour of adoration? Visit adorationpro.org/jpgacademy and click on "Weekly Commitment."

Don't see a vacant hour that works for you, but still want to commit? Sign up as a "prayer partner!" The goal is to have at least two committed adorers for each hour.

The class with the highest percentage of family adorers after Adoration Week will receive the following **prizes**:

Spirit shirt day • Image of Our Lady of Sorrows • Prayer Book

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SUN	TUE	WED	FRI	SAT
12 A	2 A	1 A	12 P	11 A
2 P		4 P	8 P	12 P
			9 P	7 P
				9 P
				10 P

SPRING SHAKESPEARE PLAY CAST

— The Upper School Drama Club would like to congratulate the following students, who have been cast in our spring Shakespeare production of *The Winter's Tale*: Gabby Anderson, Bella Broussard, Mary Kate Cramer, Morgan Doiron, Paul Fletcher, Marie George, Austin Gossen, Emile Hebert, Eli Hindelang, Catherine Hollier, Joseph Kosnosky, Zoe Lacour, Garrett Latiolais, Stephen Melancon, Dylan Moresi, Kate Schexnailder, Kenzie Wexler, and Aaron Williams; as well as the following students, who will form the Chorus of our play: Maddi Breaux, Isaiah Fletcher, Isaac Friddell, Emily Lormand, Mia Lormand, Dominic Marcantel, Amelia Powell, Ann-Ayrisse Salvatierra, and Soren Spiehler. The production will be directed by Drama Club co-presidents Aidan Fletcher and Morgan Munzing. Crew applications are currently being accepted, and the Crew list will be announced at a later date.



VETERANS DAY 2017

SPEECH & DEBATE — The Guardian Debate team is having an incredible season so far, and there are two more tournaments left in the calendar year. Join us as a judge or spectator at Comeaux High School (December 1 & 2) or Isidore Newman in New Orleans (December 8 & 9). If you would like more information, please contact Mrs. Mahan at dmahan@jpgacademy.org.

Speech & Debate students competed in the Abbeville Tournament on November 17-18 and placed 3rd in Sweepstakes. Congratulations!



Over Thanksgiving break, Mr. Baker, Mr. Ungarino, and Ms. Menard led a group of JPG students on a backpacking and hiking trip in Kisatchie National Forest. They hiked 22 miles in 2 days!

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Dec 1	Basketball (V) v. Word Ministries	HOME
Dec 2	Soccer (JV & V) v. CHA	HOME
Dec 4	Soccer (JV & V) v. CHA	Away
Dec 5	Basketball (V) v. Berchmans	HOME
Dec 6	Soccer (JV & V) v. Messiah	Away
Dec 7	Basketball Club v. Westminster	HOME
Dec 8	Basketball (V) v. CHA	Away
Dec 12	Basketball (V) v. CHEF	Away
Dec 14	Soccer (JV & V) v. SWLA	Away
Dec 14	Basketball Club v. OMP	Away
Dec 15	Basketball (V) v. Bethel-Ruston	HOME
Dec 18	Basketball Club v. LCA	HOME
Dec 19	Basketball (V) v. FBCS	Away
Dec 21	Basketball Club v. LCA	HOME



TRACK & FIELD —
The Upper School Track & Field season will begin shortly under new Head Coach Ryan Gray.

Our middle school basketball club (left) and our varsity basketball team (right) enjoying our newly renovated gymnasium.

5TH ANNUAL COLLARNARY COOK OFF

