



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts

St. John Fisher School – Together, we've got this!

February 26, 2021

Dear SJF Families,

It is hard to believe that this is the last week of February! In many ways, thanks to the pandemic, it seems like this has been an extremely long and strenuous year. On the other hand, I often find myself saying, "where did the year go?!" This school year has certainly been a rollercoaster. The constant need to transition without warning to adapt to the ever-changing rules and guidance we receive can be exhausting. I am proud of our community's resiliency and our ability to stay the course. May this new month of March, bring about warmer spring-like weather and a second-wind, allowing us to finish our third trimester strong!

Congratulations to our Reconciliation Class of 2021! Thank you to our 2nd grade parents and teachers for lovingly preparing the children for this beautiful sacrament. And thank you to Dr. Chermak and Fr. Ken for planning three thoughtful and special evenings for our students and parents.

The Lenten season encourages all of us to give ourselves feedback, pausing and reflecting on the positives and strengths in our lives, along with ways in which we can improve and grow. I am making every effort to do that personally and professionally as well. It is fitting that next month's State of the School address is taking place during Lent as it will encapsulate just that: our school's strengths, accomplishments and needs for improvement. Together, with the School Advisory Board along with your partnership and commitment, we continue to work toward the ambitious goals that we identified and set in our [5-year Strategic Plan](#). On Tuesday, March 9th, we invite you to listen in to our Virtual School Advisory Board Meeting. Thank you for choosing Catholic education, but specifically St. John Fisher.

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash

COVID Reminders

- Please see the **UPDATED QUARANTINE GUIDANCE** from the archdiocese, [linked here](#).
- Our **most frequently asked question** is *when should I keep my child home from school?*
 - ***If your child or ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD HAS 1 or more COVID symptoms, your child (and siblings) should remain at home.***
 - ***If your child or ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD has a pending COVID lab test (even if the rapid is negative).***
- Each week I express my gratitude for your partnership. Our school has successfully remained open for in-person learning because of you!

Important Announcements

- **iReady:** Within the past 2 weeks all SJF students completed a mid-year, iReady diagnostic test. The results will be used to drive both large and small group instruction as it provides teachers with reports which detail students' strengths and areas for growth. While iReady data is informative and useful, it is by no means a perfect assessment; so many factors influence a student's performance especially during a pandemic. We continue to monitor student progress and work to ensure that there are no barriers between students and their potential. As a family, we ask that you continue to emphasize the importance of completing the iReady lessons as they are assigned by your child(ren)'s teacher(s). If you are interested in viewing your child(ren)'s most recent score you can find them on their iReady dashboard under the My Progress tab. **Please direct any questions, concerns or requests for additional score information to Mrs. Nichole Carey** at ncarey@sjschool.net.
- The **UChicago Impact Parent Survey is now open!** Please fill out the parent survey, [linked here](#). Your feedback will be used to continue to make improvements at SJF – thank you for your participation!
- The second round of **Parent-Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for Friday, **March 12th**. **March 12th is an 11:30 dismissal for students.** *Optional* Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place between **12-4 on March 12th**. The link to sign-up for conferences will be shared next week. We want to partner and collaborate with our parent community! You can always reach out to your child's teacher(s) to schedule a meeting at any point throughout the school year.
- There is **NO SCHOOL on Monday, March 15th**.
- **School Advisory Board Update: Save the Date:** Please join the SAB meeting on **March 9th at 7:30** where they will share an update on progress and next steps related to SJF's Strategic Plan. All parents are invited to listen in! This is a great opportunity especially for anyone interested in joining these efforts next year. We have a few openings and will be seeking new members. If you have questions, please feel free to email, sjfsab@gmail.com, ahead of the meetings so we can address any questions that night. The meeting will be virtual and links will be shared closer to the meeting.
- Don't forget to **register** to save your spot for **Extended Day**, [here!](#) If you have any questions, contact Mrs. O'Grady, dogrady@sjschool.net.
- **Women's Club Update:** We have lots of interest - but **we need YOUR RECIPES!** So far, we don't have enough to create a book. Please help the Women's Club build a great SJF cookbook by sharing your recipes for appetizers, main dishes, side dishes, any meal, dessert - we welcome all contributions! Please e-mail recipes to: colnitsche04@gmail.com or melissazmich28@gmail.com.
 - **Save the Dates** *stay tuned for more information:
 - April 16th Virtual Bingo**
 - May 14th Scavenger Hunt**
- **FSA Update:** Calling all Falcon Families! FSA is looking for volunteers to help plan upcoming events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kristen Schiesl, kristenschiesl@gmail.com, or Karen McDonagh, klak13@yahoo.com.
 - **FSA Save the Dates:**
 - May 3rd - May 7th - Teacher Appreciation Week**
 - May 22nd - Fisher Community Yard Sale**
- Here is this month's **Parish Newsletter**. Sign up to receive the parish newsletter [here](#).



FALCON OF THE WEEK

Franki Nendza , 4th grade



SJF's "Falcon of the Week" is 4th grader, Franki Nendza.

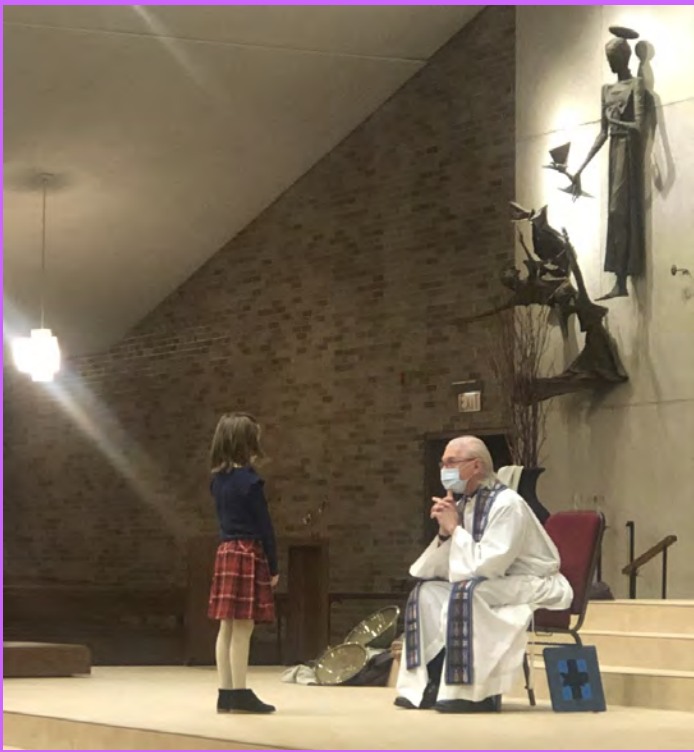
Our school theme is "Fly Like a Falcon." At school, we are intentionally discussing *what it means to be a falcon*. We are encouraging our school community to "soar above" things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves. We are on a school-wide crusade to "Fly Like Falcons," lifting one another up, celebrating the positive interactions and kind behavior that our students and staff demonstrate each and every day.

Franki's teachers overwhelmingly nominated her to be the Falcon of the Week. Franki has consistently been a positive force and bright spot in her class this year, not only among her teachers, but also among her peers.

Franki possesses wonderful qualities. She is kind, thoughtful, gentle, funny and humble.

Franki quietly helps others. She is very intuitive and often can tell when one of her friends or classmates is sad. She makes every effort to lift the spirits of those around her and tries to contribute to making her classmates happy and her classroom a fun and welcoming place to be. Because of COVID, there are a lot of "extras" that our teachers have to do this year including more frequent disinfecting of desks, tables, etc. Franki is always offering to assist her teachers with this task among many others to help lighten their load.

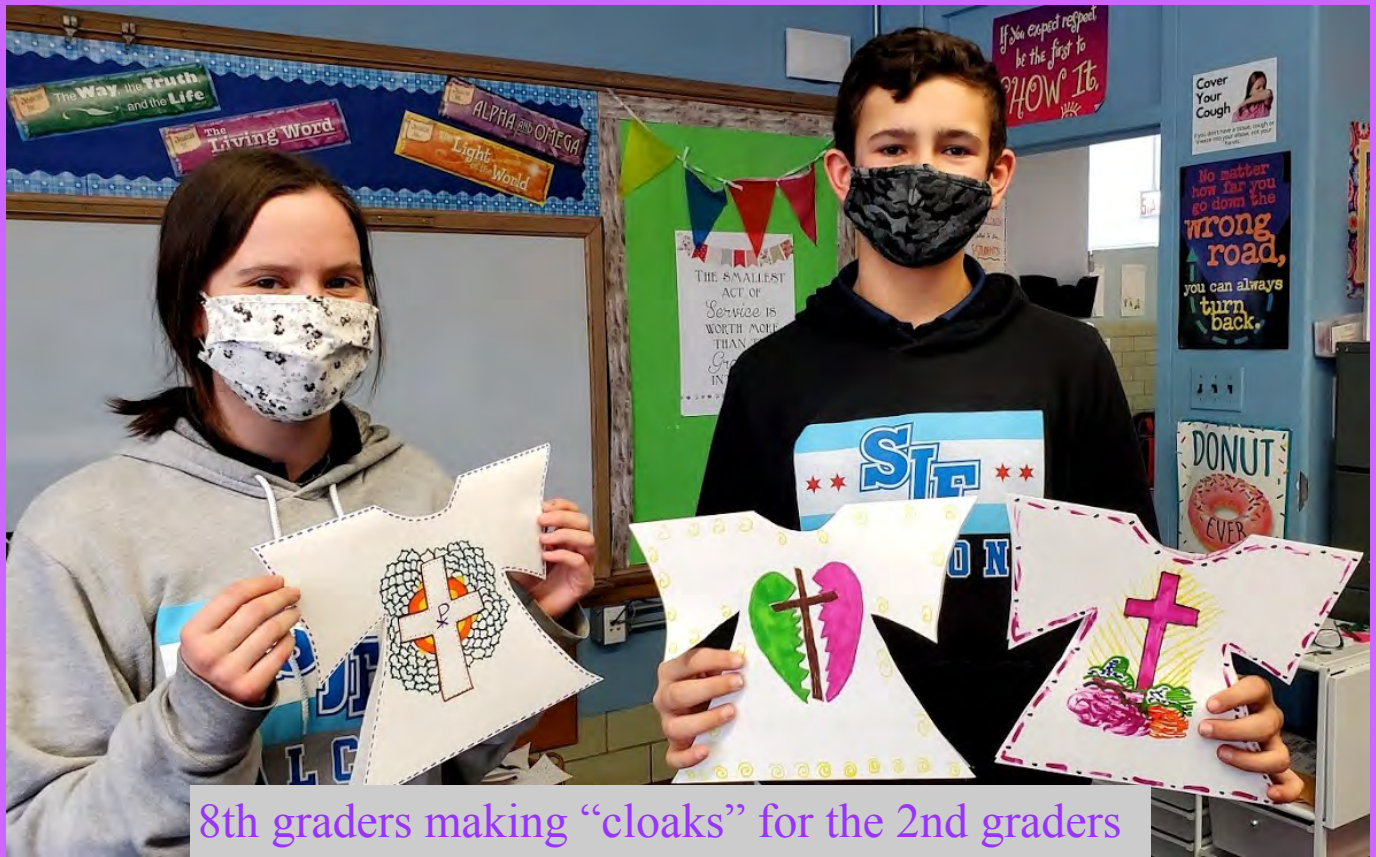
Franki is a kind soul whose goal in life is to make those around her feel happy and loved. Thank you, Franki, for reminding us what life is all about. Keep flying like a Falcon, you are making a difference!



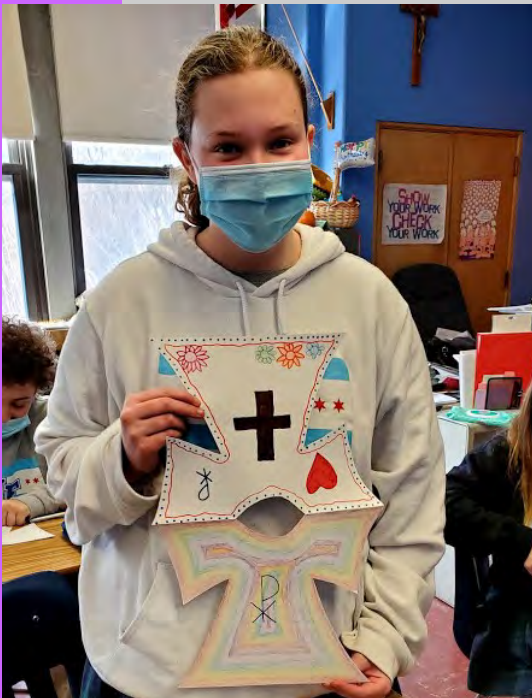
First Reconciliation

A grace-filled evening for students and parents
Congratulations 2nd graders!





8th graders making "cloaks" for the 2nd graders



2nd graders leading prayers over the P.A.



Dear 2nd grader,
Tonight you make your first Reconciliation.
Last year I made mine! I remember that
I felt a little scared and happy. Always
remember that God loves us very much and
always forgives us when we are truly sorry!
God Bless You! I will be thinking of you and
praying for you tonight! Have a great Reconciliation!
Your 3rd Grade Friend, Amelia

Support cards from 3rd graders & Getting Ready!





Proud Parents, Prayers, Practice & 1st Reconciliation!



40 Things to do with your Family during Lent

1. Attend Ash Wednesday services and receive ashes.
2. Make a Lenten countdown calendar. You can color in or put a sticker on each day as it passes.
3. Memorize a weekly Bible verse.
4. Look through magazines and cut out pictures of your Lenten sacrifice and glue them to a poster as a reminder for kids.
5. Make [resurrection eggs](#).
6. Read a story together. [This website](#) has a list of 40 books perfect for Easter!
7. Bake pretzels as a symbol of arms crossed in prayer.
8. Give pennies for good behavior and help kids save them in a special collection jar for church.
9. Choose some toys to donate.
10. Make a prayer chain out of 40 strips of paper with something/someone special to pray for on each one.
11. Plant a seed and watch it grow.
12. Print coloring pages, [like these](#), for kids.
13. Read about the Last Supper together.
14. Explain the [meaning of the color purple](#) during Lent.
15. Attend a fish fry (or order a fish dinner – local restaurants have great options!).
16. Pray [the Stations of the Cross](#) together.
17. Bake resurrection rolls. [This website](#) has a simple recipe with great explanations for each step.
18. Donate clothes that no longer fit.
19. Make a rosary and pray it as a family.
20. Fold your Palm Sunday palm leaves into crosses.
21. Exemplify sacrifice by giving up something as a family, such as candy or technology time.
22. Brainstorm ways to be more like Jesus and write them on a poster where kids will see it every day.
23. Watch an Easter-themed show or movie.
24. Make “stained glass” crosses to decorate windows, such as [these](#).
25. Eat some jelly beans while reading the [jelly bean prayer](#).
26. Talk about what it must have been like for Jesus to spend 40 days in the desert.
27. Go outside on a nice day and take in nature. Remind your kids that everything they see was created by God.
28. Do volunteer work with your kids. Pick up trash in the park or help a neighbor.
29. Help your kids memorize the Lord’s Prayer by saying it each day.
30. Watch or read *The Lion, the Witch, and Wardrobe* and point out how Aslan sacrificed himself to save others the same way Jesus did to save us.
31. Pick a saint to learn more about together.
32. Let your kids choose a favorite meatless meal for Ash Wednesday or a Friday during Lent.
33. Read a daily devotion with your children.
34. Add more intentional family prayer time to your day.
35. Print out worksheets to help kids learn more about Lent.
36. Read the Beatitudes and delve into them further to help your children understand them.
37. Encourage your children to show one another more love and forgiveness during Lent. Remind them how Jesus’ sacrifice was for our sins to be forgiven.
38. Help your kids learn a song with hand motions. [This one](#) from Catholic Icing is fun and easy.
39. Attend Holy week church services.
40. Attend the Easter vigil service together.





2020-2021 St. John Fisher School Contacts

If you have a question or concern about...

- Assignments
- Homework
- Class Activities

Contact [Classroom Teacher](#) by email or note.

- Discipline
- Classroom Behavior
- Specific Incidents

Start by contacting the [Classroom Teacher](#) for an appointment.
If further assistance is needed, contact SJF Assistant Principal, Mrs. Claire Larmon: clarmon@sjschool.net

- Attendance
- Calendars
- Schedules
- Arrival/Dismissal
- Miscellaneous Questions
- Public Relations

Contact the school office at 773-445-4737, or Mrs. Kate Spadoni: kspadoni@sjschool.net

- Registration
- Admissions
- Medical Forms

Contact the school office at 773-445-4737, or Mrs. Linda Murray: lmurray@sjschool.net

- Powerschool
- Tuition
- Fees

Mrs. Delphine Maxwell: dmaxwell@sjschool.net

- Virtus Training and Compliance
- Religious Education
- Extended Day Program
- Manna Program

Virtus, Mrs. Redmond: mredmond@sjschool.net
Religious Education, Dr. Chermak: echermak@sjschool.net
Extended Day, Mrs. O'Grady: dogrady@sjschool.net
Manna Team: sjfmanna@gmail.com

- Counseling
- Student Support

Contact SJF Counselor and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Nichole Carey: ncarey@sjschool.net

- Parent Newsletter
- Financial Aid Applications
- School Procedures
- Administrative Matters
- Policy
- Further assistance on any matters listed above

Contact SJF Principal, Mrs. Maura Nash: mnash@sjschool.net

- School Board
- Athletic Programs
- Family School Association
- Women's Club
- Holy Name Society

School Advisory Board: sjsab@gmail.com
Athletic Association: stjohnfishersports@gmail.com
FSA: fsa@sjschool.net
Women's Club: SJFWomensClub@gmail.com
HNS: SJFHNS@gmail.com



A Special Section Supporting
 19th Ward Ald. Matt O'Shea's
Get Behind the Vest
Pick-up/Delivery
Pancake Breakfast
March 21, 2021

Special Section Fundraiser
Publication date: March 17, 2021
Deadline: March 12, 2021

15% of the cost of your ad
will be donated to the
Chicago Police
Memorial Foundation!

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general@beverlyreview.net

Do Something Good
for your business and help protect
those who serve and protect!

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beverlyreview.net

The Beverly
REVIEW

A vest isn't bulletproof forever

It needs to be replaced every 5 years.
 Chicago Police Officers are responsible for replacing their own vest, which can cost \$500 or more. It is projected that 500 officers a year will need new vests in the future. The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation has paid out more than \$4.6 million to outfit 11,276 Chicago Police Officers with replacement bulletproof vests through the Get Behind the Vest program.

Your ad will support Get Behind the Vest

Special Bonus for your participation: 50% off website ads at beverlyreview.net!

Yes, I want to help the 'Get Behind the Vest' Pancake Breakfast!

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Address _____

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15% of your ad will go to the CPMF!

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- 3/16 page \$147.00
- 1/4 page \$196.00
- 1/2 page \$392.00
- Full page \$784.00
- Full color, add..... \$150.00

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