

### December 2022 Monthly Newsletter for Family and Students



#### A MISTLE-TOAST TO THE END OF THE SEMESTER!

Dear Josephinum Community,

We have officially entered the season of Advent, a time dedicated to reflection and preparation. I encourage you to think back on the successes and challenges you've faced thus far this year and apply that new-found knowledge to the work that lies ahead of you. Although we are only a few weeks away from winter break, our work is far from over. It is important that students end the semester on a high note as these grades will appear on their transcripts. Taking the time to understand your unique learning style is the best way to set yourself up for success, cougars! I am in awe of the resilience and tenacity our community has demonstrated this year and look forward to the many blessings the new year will bring.

#### Warm Regards, Mrs. Colleen Schrantz



### NOW PLAYING: THE REVENGER'S TRAGEDY

Join us for an evening of theater at Josephinum Academy's uniquely intimate black box theater. Thomas Middleton's *The Revenger's Tragedy* explores the nexus of rage and humor that drive a mourning widower seeking to punish his lover's murderer.

#### Thursday, December 8 Friday, December 9 Saturday, December 10

All shows begin at 7 pm. Guests may enter the building beginning at 6:30 pm through the Bell St. entrance. General public **tickets are available at the door** for \$15 and student tickets for \$8.



### ADVENT: THE SEASON OF PREPARATION

With the Advent Season upon us, students have begun to study the cultural and religious significance of the Advent wreath and its candles. The wreath's circle serves as a

representation of God's infinite love for us while the candles individually stand for hope, peace, joy, and love. Students are taking time to make space, espacio, to be fully present with God's love during this time of preparation for the birth of Jesus.



### MASS OF PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

On November 18, the Josephinum community celebrated the feast day of St. Philippine, as an important day for the Sacred Heart community. Born in Grenoble, France, Rose Philippine Duchesne was called to religious life at the early age of 18. However, it wasn't until she met Madeline Sophie Barat, the founder of The Society of the Sacred Heart, in 1804 that the two women established a new foundation for The Society.

In 1818, Philippine sailed to New Orleans with four other Religious of The Sacred Heart. After settling in the small village of St. Charles, they opened the first free school west of the Mississippi and the first Catholic school in what would later become the St. Louis Archdiocese. Rose Philippine Duchesne is deeply ingrained in the history of Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart. She was a pioneer, educator, and vowed religious whose fortitude, faith, courage, and humility continue to inspire us.

### MEET OUR CHEERLEADING COACH



### WELCOME TO THE JO COACH BRITTANY

Josephinum has recently welcomed cheerleading coach, Brittany Merritt. After completing a 16-year-long cheerleading career, Brittany began coaching girls throughout the city. Cheerleading is meant to empower our students, help them gain confience, and teach them the value of healthy competition, "our girls have talent. I see the dedication they have to the sport and to each other. I can tell that they rehearse the routines outside of practice, and I hope we are able to take the team far beyond cheering at games. I want them to compete!"

### THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

#### WORLD RELIGIONS

Mrs. Murphy's freshman class has begun studying the beliefs, practices, and traditions of Judaism. As with all religions, the study began with the origins and history of the faith. During the month of December, students will continue to learn about the sacred stories and scriptures of Judaism. With Hanukkah beginning on December 18th, students may even have the opportunity to sample some of the traditional food of that celebration!



HUMAN DIGNITY: A THEOLOGICAL STUDY

# Theology Department



foundation.

Mr. Lewis' classes have begun unraveling the concept of human dignity and why The Lord instilled our minds with this understanding.

The sophomore class has begun preparations for their final project which is centered around the theological topic known as, *"The Problem of Evil". S*tudents have gathered in predetermined groups to formulate deductive arguments and counterarguments on why natural and moral evil exist. During the final weeks of the semester, they will have a chance to present these arguments to one another in an exercise centered on deductive and inductive skills of logic with a theocentric

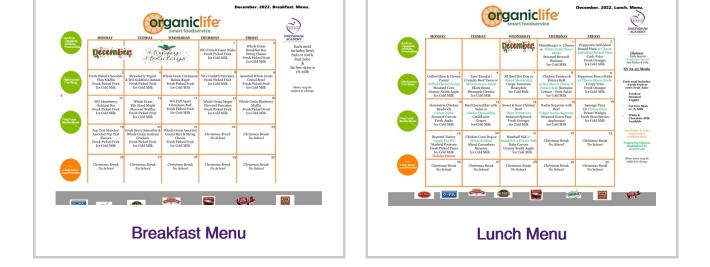
For the juniors, their focus also remains centered on human dignity with an emphasis on contemporary examples of human dignity violations. Students were presented with multiple thesis statements to choose from with the hope that they can defend or argue against these positions. The outcome will be a 6-page, double-spaced final paper that allows the students to showcase their skills within research and premise building. In the end, both groups should be able to articulate what human dignity is and how it's important in today's modern society.

### THEOLOGY & CINEMA

The 12th-grade Theology and Cinema class continued analyzing films through a theological lens during the month of November. To honor the Day of The Dead, students watched *The Others,* a film about a woman and her two children who believe they are being haunted. As the plot unravels, you come to understand that it is the woman and her children who are actually dead. The film served as a conversation starter for the religious study of life after death. Students were asked to analyze the characters of the film and decide whether they were existing in Heaven, Hell, or Purgatory.



## MONTHLY CAFETERIA MENUS



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Play Performance #1	2 Play Performance #2	3 Play Performance #3 Admissions – HSPT Entrance Exam
4 2nd Sunday of Advent	5	6 Basketball Game (A) v. Hope Academy @6pm St. Nick's Day-Candy Canes	7 College Visit: Dominican University	8 Mass for the IC Basketball Game (A) v. Christ The King @opm Play Performance #4 Art Show 3:45pm-7pm	Play Performance #5	10 Play Performance #6 (Closing Night)
11 3rd Sunday of Advent	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Basketball Game (H) v. UICCP @5:30	13 Basketball Game (H) v. Providence St. Mel @5:30	14 Pep Rally	15 Admissions Open House 5:30pm - 7pm	16 Christmas Around the World	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent	19 Final Exams (1,2,3A) Basketball Game (A) v. Rochelle Zell ©5:30pm	20 Final Exams (4,5,6A)	21 Final Exams ( <b>3B, 6B,7</b> )	22 No s	23 CHOOL	24 Noche Buena/ Christmas Eve
25 Christmas	26	27	28 NO SCHOOL	29	30	31 New Year's Eve





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