



VOLUME VI ISSUE XVIII

December 6, 2024

Come to our Advent Family Mass on August 15

We are pleased to offer another opportunity for the JPII community to gather as one family as we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent, a liturgical season of waiting and preparation. December can be a busy and hectic month for our families, from holiday parties to multiple athletic events, and rushing around to complete Christmas shopping. Advent provides us with time to slow down and reflect on the real reason for all this chaos.

The PTO, working in tandem with our Advancement Team, has planned just that opportunity on **Sunday, December 15 at 11:00am in the Athletic Center**. This will be one of St. Gregory the Great's regular Sunday masses, however we will have the JPII Choir in attendance along with many of our students, parents, and staff. You do not have to be Catholic to attend and we welcome all our families regardless of religious affiliation. Come early all ye faithful to hear the choir sing a few carols prior to mass. After mass we will provide fellowship time with plenty of delicious treats and refreshments. Hope to see you there.

The Week Ahead with Plenty to Celebrate

Next week will be a time for our school to celebrate not just one, but two masses. **On Monday, December 9** we will celebrate the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and on **Thursday, December 12**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which will be celebrated in both Spanish and English. Our parents are always welcome to join us for mass which starts at 10:20 in the Athletic Center. Both days students must be in mass uniform. There will be no House Day next week. Students can wear ugly Christmas sweaters on **Friday the 13th**.

On **Thursday evening**, our Music Department will present their annual Christmas Concert at 7:00pm. We have moved this event to the Athletic Center as it was standing room only in the Commons last year. Our choir and band have grown in number and quality, and this is a can't miss for all of our families. If you attended Lessons and Carols last year you know exactly what I am talking about.

Counting Down the Days to the End of Term I

Can you believe it! Term I is coming to a close and Semester exams loom in the immediate future. Only 7 more days of classes before exams begin so students are encouraged to make sure all missing assignments are completed, projects done, and makeup exams have been taken. Year after year I have witnessed students fail a class, not because of poor grades, but because of incomplete work. Procrastination time is over!

2024/2025 1st Semester Exam Schedule

Wednesday, December 18

8:25-9:45 am - A block & Period 1
9:50-11:05 am - B block & Period 2
11:10-12:25 pm - C block & Period 3
12:30 Dismissal

Thursday, December 19

8:25-9:45 am - E block & Period 4
9:50-11:05 am - F block & Period 5
11:10-12:25 pm - G block & Period 6
12:30pm Dismissal

Friday, December 20

8:25-9:45 am - D block & Period 7
9:50-11:05 am - H block & MS Holiday Cheer
11:15am Dismissal



All students in grades 9-11 are required to take first semester exams. Students may not reschedule exams simply because they do not want to attend school on December 18th-20th. All exams will be administered on the scheduled exam day.

Because of their senior project requirement, first and second semester exams will be optional for all seniors. A senior may choose to take an exam if s/he feels it could help to raise her/his semester grade.

High school students who are taking an AP class are required to report to her/his AP class during their regularly scheduled AP block unless other directions have been given by the teacher. If a student receives an Unexcused Absence for a missed AP exam block, she/he earns a zero for all missed work that day.

Middle school students are ONLY taking exams for high school credit classes. This includes PreAP English I, PreAP Algebra I, PreAP Geometry & Statistics, and Spanish I/Mandarin I. However, middle school teachers will be using their exam period to administer an end of unit test, have students give a presentation, or complete instruction prior to break.

From Student Activities

As we pause to celebrate the tiny moments of joy we find in this season of waiting, let us be glad that there are still a few things to look forward to as we rush towards exam week and Christmas break. Today was the due date for Advent family contributions. House Deans and Mentors have sent out lists to all of you stating the gift cards that we are looking for this year. If your student somehow forgot their contribution today, gift cards can still be returned to mentors or Deans on Monday. Thank you for contributing to the blessings of so many families this season.

The door decorating contest is under way and judging will take place this coming Wednesday. Thank you to all who are participating and are spreading the Christmas spirit through the halls of JP II.

Our JP II Wish club has been selling Candygrams all week to continue to raise money to support a child and their family in need through the South Carolina Make a Wish program. President Hannah Ketchledge, the club's second president, has been working tirelessly to raise funds for JP II Wish and is dedicated to supporting a local child and their family in need have their wish granted this year. She and the club have already raised nearly \$1,000, but it is time to ramp up participation through the online giving portal. The club raised over \$10,000 and supported a child's wish coming true last year with Brad Campbell, class of 2024 alum and founding president, at the helm. I am proud to include the link here to get their online fundraising campaign started for this year! https://secure2.wish.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=5632&team_id=51056

As we get closer to Christmas break, students will be invited to wear an "Ugly" Christmas sweater with their House uniform on **Friday, December 13th**. Remember, there will be no House block that Friday so our schedule will have full length blocks/periods that day. We can still have the day to showcase some extra Christmas spirit leading up to finals week!

The Warrior Way

The following students, teacher, and family were nominated by our community to be recognized for their commitment to our SHEILD value of SERVICE! Way to go, Warriors!

- Middle School – James DeBethizy
- High School – Zach Reardon
- Teacher- Nicole Schatzle
- Family- Wolf Family

From the Sports Desk

Varsity Boys Basketball experienced a tale of two halves Wednesday night on the Island as the Golden Warriors roared into halftime after a dominant second quarter leading HH Prep 32-21. The halftime break gave the Dolphins a chance to regroup, and the visitors could not muster the same intensity or execution in the second half and saw their lead erased by the beginning of the 4th quarter. Four more 3-pointers in the final frame put the game away for HHP with a final score of 58-42. JP2's record is now 4-1 and will compete next against May River HS next Tuesday on the road.

On Monday, the Boys' Varsity overcame a sluggish start with some sharpshooting from junior Logan Cotter, who connected on 4 of 5 field goal attempts and finished the evening with 12 points. Co-captain Nicholai Atkinson ultimately led the way with 16 points, but the defense was the story all night as the Cross Stingrays could only manage 18 points to JP2's 73. The Golden Warriors record improved to 4-0.

JV Boys Basketball traveled to Hilton Head Prep to battle for the second time in two weeks. The Warriors came out strong and finished with a dominating 40-19 victory. Leading the way was 8th grader Jadon Inabinett with a career-high 12 points off the bench. Sophomore Deuce Kerschbaum chipped in with 10 points, while Leiland Fripp controlled both ends of the court and finished with 9 points. All 11 players contributed to the game, with seven getting into the scoring column. The Warriors return to action at home on Saturday vs Battery Creek at 12 pm.

Middle School Boys Basketball won Monday Night versus the Low Country Montessori School 60 to 11. Jackson Probst led the team with 10 points. The entire team scored at least one basket. Everyone had a great time, and we look forward to competing versus Hilton Head Christian at St Francis.

Varsity Girls Basketball bounced back from its first loss of the season by defeating HH Prep by the score of 70-62. We played Warrior basketball, and it was so much fun to watch! Excellent ball movement and sharp shooting led to an early lead, and we never looked back. All 11 players had quality minutes with everyone scoring and pulling down rebounds. Savannah Trott had the hot hand going 4 for 5 behind the arc. She finished with 18 points and 6 rebounds. Lily Termini was a beast with 12 boards, 3 assists and 8 points. Dominique Jones played amazing defense, scored 8 points, and had 3 assists. Lauren Majorkiewicz was a great floor general with 10 points, 4 assists, and 5 rebounds. Great team basketball!

On Monday night, offensive struggles and early foul trouble led to a loss against Cross, 51-42. Lily Termini fought hard for her 13 points and 11 boards which lead the team. Lauren Majorkiewicz scored 10 points, and Dominique Jones added 9. Evelyn Melnick once again played great defense.

JV Girls Basketball defeated Beaufort Academy Tuesday evening 33-18. It was once again a dominate defensive effort by the Warriors, especially in their half-court trap. Awesome job ladies!!! Scoring was led by Ellie Morris with 10 points, Millie Cornejo with 7, Gia Sakowicz and Alivia Ogden each with 6, and Sofie Hannigan and Grace Buckland each contributed 2 points. Great job Warriors!!!

Middle School Girls Basketball came away as the 1st place Champions of the Knights of Columbus Tip Off Classic tournament with an awesome and hard-fought victory over Hilton Head Prep with a final score of 19-13. It was an all-around team effort on both sides of the ball with Destiny Godsun leading the scoring with 5 points followed by 4 points each for Eden Leonard, Roxy Remigio and Taryn McKamey.

The MS girls put on a show with a convincing 23-11 victory over HHCA. If you haven't had a chance to watch these middle school girls play basketball, you're missing good old-fashioned competitive basketball at its best. There's no question about the effort and heart the girls put into every second on the court and once again, Eden Leonard was the spark that ignited this team with multiple steals and 5 points on the offensive side. Taryn McKamey added 3 points, Roxy Remigio with 4 points, and Annie Rose led the team with 6 points to back another outstanding team defensive effort.

Wow! What a night to watch the middle school girls' basketball team in action. They hammered out a tough win tonight vs. Cross with a 27-21 victory. The girls were trailing by 3 after one quarter and trailing by 1 going into the 4th quarter before pulling away by outscoring Cross 9-2 in the 4th quarter. It was a well-rounded defensive and offensive effort by the girls to secure a place in the winner's bracket against Hilton Head Christian Academy. Eden Leonard was a defensive force on the court forcing multiple turnovers that led to points. Contributions were made by Destiny Godsun with 6 points, Taryn McKamey with 6 points, Eileen O'Sullivan with 6 points, and 4 from Eden Leonard. Annie Rose hit a crucial 3 pointer in the 4th quarter and a huge shoutout to Anna Asbrey with her first 2 points of the season! Awesome game ladies!!

Wrestling kicked off the season with a home quad in a Beaufort County Showdown against Whale Branch, Bridges Prep, and Battery Creek. As a team, the Golden Warriors won 2 of the 3 dual matches with a 66 to 22 win against Whale Branch, a 48 to 36 win against Bridges Prep, and a 48 to 36 loss to Battery Creek.

Individually, going 3-0 were Jase Reynolds, Brian Orta, and Archer Dewig. Finishing at 2-0 were Chase LaFountain, Tripp Thiesen, and Jack Hannagan. Going 2-1 was Taylor Murphy. Also winning 1 match were Bailey Homer, Jude Witkowski, KP Santos, Alex Mercer, Brody Farris, Nick Kessinger, and Dominic Grassi. The Warriors are back in action this Saturday for the Hammond Holiday Hustle Duals Tourney in Columbia. This

Last weekend the John Paul II Golden Warrior Wrestling team competed in the Bridges Prep JCS Memorial Preseason Tournament. Eight wrestlers finished in the top 4. Bringing home championships were Brian Orta and Jack Hannagan while Archer Dewig and Nick Kessinger had runner-up finishes. Placing third were Jase Reynolds, Jude Witkowski, and Beau Ryan. Bailey Homer and Lathan Nichols also placed fourth.

What's New at JP II

Welcome to Ms. Quintessa Fishburne who will be replacing Mrs. Cadra Rooney as our new technology teacher. Ms. Fishburne comes to us from the Department of Defense STARBASE in Savannah where she was a program instructor providing classroom instruction to youth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She also collaborated with military personnel to teach and implement real world applications of STEM within military careers. A graduate of South Carolina State University with a B.A. in English, Ms. Fishburne also taught middle school English at Crown Leadership Academy in Mount Pleasant and with the Charleston County School Dist. (Dept. of Juvenile Justice) as a Social Emotional Learning Facilitator & Student Concern Specialist. Besides teaching computer science at JP II, she will also assist with our robotics program and the Girls that Code Club. Welcome Ms. Fishburne.

You may have noticed a couple of new structures at JP II. The front sign has been replaced. The original sign dates back to 2013 and was wearing out and was difficult to keep clean of the mold growing inside. The new collegiate looking sign is very easy to read and stands out with white lettering on a navy blue background.



Also new to JP II is the garden structure that sits to the left of the Commons patio area. This will be home to the newly established JP II Garden Club. The club will be growing their own fruits and vegetables that will eventually find their way into our café menu. Project learning at its best. Thank you to the Ghem family for spearheading this effort.



We are always improving the campus and student experience at JP II.

The JPII Bands and Choirs Present

GLORIA!

a Christmas Concert

Thursday

07:00 pm | Dec 12

4211 Okatie Hwy Ridgeland, SC

Gymnasium

Dessert Reception to Follow

Come to the First JP II Parent Seminar of the School Year



NCAA Eligibility & Recruitment Seminar

Tuesday, December 10, @ 8 - 9am
JP II Athletic Center

Join USCB Director of Athletic Compliance
Shawn Becker and USCB coaches as we discuss the
exciting and complicated world of collegiate athletics.

All families and high school student-athletes
are encouraged to attend.



John Paul II Catholic School
4211 N. Okatie Hwy, Ridgeland, SC 29936
843-645-3838 • johnpaul2school.org

Sincerely in His Purpose,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John E. McCarthy'.

John E McCarthy
President