



NOVEMBER 2023

THE GUARDIAN

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION AT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY

FROM THE DESK OF

Mrs. Angela Odinet HEAD OF SCHOOL


CALENDAR

Welcome November! As we finally move out of hurricane season, we long to leave behind the fear of devastation, the oppressive heat of the summer, and the nuisance of summer time bugs (mostly mosquitos. I really mean mosquitos here). I love the fall and the winds of change. I welcome the shorter days in hopes of cooler ones for gumbo dinners and nights around a fire. I love college football Saturday, early morning coffee outside in prayer or reading, and gentle breezes or the rustle of leaves. At the same time though, I am keenly aware that it means we are close to midyear. Yes – we are almost halfway through the school year. It seems impossible and yet it is here. I try to remember the first day: the first day back with the sweet sounds of students' laughter, a welcome hug from a colleague or a returning parent; a stream of the first first days of school and the last first day of school now as a parent of a senior. And just like that I am overcome with emotion and remembering through tears of joy.



Nov 1	All School Mass - All Saints' Day
Nov 3	Early Dismissal - Speech & Debate
Nov 8	Fides et Ratio: Speaker Series pt 1
Nov 9	Headmaster's Challenge Shirts
Nov 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Upper School House ShirtsLower School Veteran Mass
Nov 11	10th Annual Collarnary Cook Off
Nov 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LS Thanksgiving FeastTotus Tuus Shirts
Nov 20-24	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 28	#iGiveCatholic

"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude." In this quote, GK Chesterton lays out the call for gratitude very simply. The virtue of gratitude is not just an emotional response to something but rather it is a choice. I always think of that choice still as something soft or even still as a response to a gift, but in my recent reflections I read of Pope Francis' approach to gratitude and I am changed. Pope Francis called gratitude a powerful weapon. He suggested that if we can be truly grateful, practice gratitude daily then we can allow the Holy Spirit to grant us the freshness that can renew our life and our mission. Wow, a renewal through gratitude! If we commit to this daily approach, we will be moved to look at our lives differently. We must walk slower, listen more, smile, give. We should recollect at the end of each day of the blessings we have before us, even in the struggle or in our cross. We can then lose sight of envy, judgment, negativity because we are free to recognize what is genuinely good and beautiful around us. We will welcome Jesus and each other more readily. We will spend more time with Him in adoration. And our hearts will be open to the grace and gifts of Our Father and of each other.



SACRED HEART OF JESUS


Perpetual Adoration Chapel
at John Paul the Great Academy

SUN 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM	WED 1:00 AM
FRI 6:00 PM	THURS 12:00 AM
SAT 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 6:00 PM 10:00 PM	

SIGN UP ONLINE:
JPGACADEMY.ORG/ADORATION
LIST UPDATED AS OF OCTOBER 20

COMMITTED ADORERS & SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth."
~ St. Mother Teresa



At JPG our faculty and staff seek to model to teach as Jesus taught, but perhaps we should do more. Perhaps we need to model and seek to live as Jesus lived. By practicing an attitude of thanksgiving we are following the model of Jesus who expressed gratitude to the Father throughout His own life and ministry. (Matthew 26:27; Mark 14:23; Luke 22:17-19; 1 Corinthians 11:24). Do we follow this model? Daily, do we express gratitude to each other and to our Father? Do our prayers thank God for the day, for the sunset and stars, for the laughter of children? Do our prayers thank God for the lesson in the struggle and the weight of the cross? And do we give thanks to each other? Do we tell our spouse thank you for the sacrifice of their day and time for our family? Or the struggling child in our family or classroom for the opportunity to learn from him or practice patience with her? Do we really give thanks and live in gratitude?

Regardless of your answers to the previous questions, we invite you to start over, to allow the Holy Spirit to grant you the freshness of renewal and to seek to live a life of gratitude with us. All of us together in thanksgiving and in faith seeking to model Jesus. We pray that as we begin November and this season of gratitude, you too can recollect the blessings in your life.

And as this season of gratitude makes way for a season of giving, we are grateful for the opportunity to give of our time, talent, and treasures with you for this beautiful apostolate of Catholic, classical education. We are grateful to share in the treasure trove of the Catholic tradition and to seek holiness for each other, our families, and our precious students.

Angela B. Odinet

OMNIA IN EXCELLENTIA AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM



SEASON OF GRATITUDE

Thank you!

PTO

The PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) mission is to serve the school and its teachers through parent-led events and fundraisers. The recent Family Fall Fest is one of their beautiful endeavors. It provided a day of fun, play, and community. Their dedicated volunteers and selfless commitment to service is remarkable. The volunteers selflessly serve our teachers, coordinate events, prepare and deliver meals, and assist in various vital roles, from the adoration chapel to art projects and the front office. For questions or to help with PTO contact Mrs. Sarah McManus.

Looking Forward

The upcoming Daddy Daughter Dance this spring where daddies and daughters can dress up and dance the night away.



PTO welcomes new officers, Mrs. Crystal Paille & Mrs. Anne Heinen.



PAC

The Parent Advisory Committee's roles include bridging our community, ensuring cultural consistency, and addressing community concerns. This partnership fulfills our mission as an independent Catholic school on the foundation of the Catholic Family. Parents, as Primary Educators, can connect with the PAC for valuable input and to enhance the school and family experience. For questions or to contact the PAC you can reach out to any of its members or the co-chairs, Mrs. Veronica Pagan and Mrs. Kim Anson.

Welcome to the PAC



Mr. Mike Richard, OP



Mrs. Crystal Louviere



Mr. Ryan Breux



Looking Forward

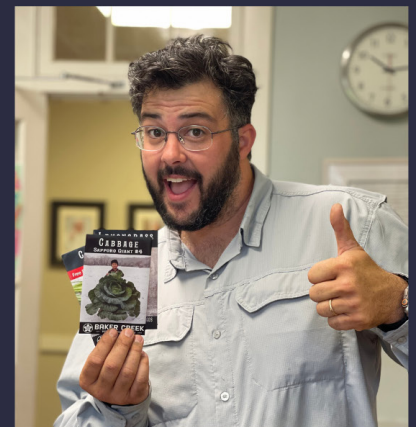
The PAC's idea of a Lenten book study for the entire JPG Community. Stay tuned!

GUARDIAN GROWERS

Mr. Dufrene and the dedicated volunteers of Guardian Growers are "growing fruits of the garden and of the Spirit" which reflects the heart of JPG. Your creative vision for the future of horticulture on campus, plays a vital role in maintaining and preserving the school's natural beauty. It's a testament to the transformative power of your efforts.



MA Patout & Son, LTD, LLC partners with Guardian Growers to fulfill our dream of a demonstration garden for students and teachers. Advancement Coordinator Mrs. Garcia-Prieto and Horticulture & Land Manager Mr. Dufrene celebrate this exciting partnership.



Looking Forward

Mr. Dufrene, holds these seeds with great anticipation. As we sow the seeds of sugar cane, strawberries, onions, garlic, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts, we look forward to a bountiful harvest ahead.



GUARDIAN GROWERS
JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY

SEASON OF GRATITUDE

We are grateful...



FACULTY & STAFF

We give thanks for the dedicated faculty & staff at John Paul the Great Academy. We are grateful for your witness, your commitment to our Catholic faith, and your devotion in forming our students in faith and reason. Your hard work with our students and in seeking the truth, you are forming the students as disciples of Jesus Christ. Their daily example in growing closer to Jesus is a powerful testament to your dedication to our students. We are profoundly grateful for your impact on our students' lives.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As the governing body of our school, the Board plays a pivotal role in directing our policies, mission, and strategic vision. Their dedication to ensuring the continued success and growth of JPG is a gift. We appreciate their commitment to maintaining our school's mission and values, guiding us toward a bright and purposeful future.

Thank You, Mrs. Mary Heimbold

Thank you Mrs. Mary Heimbold for her dedicated service to JPG. Her contributions have been invaluable. Even though she is stepping down from her position on the Board, Mary will still be involved with the school and our community. We are grateful for her service.



Looking Forward

Please welcome back Dr. Greg Ardoine to the Board. His return is a testament to his dedication to our school's mission and vision. We are excited to have him continue his valuable service, guiding us toward a bright and purposeful future.

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated members of the newly formed Architecture and Construction Sub-Committee for their yes and look forward to their invaluable contributions on our first steps to a Master Plan. The Sub-Committee continues the work of turning plans into reality and creating a comprehensive blueprint for expansion of our century-old campus. Be on the look out for future substantive updates from the Sub-Committee. Their work will be instrumental in assisting JPG in working towards its Capital Campaign.



Pictured: Tyler Landry, Brandon Charpentier, Hart Littell.
Not pictured: Angela Odinet, Corey Grimley and Madeline Salvatierra

SEASON OF GIVING



10th ANNUAL "COLLAR" NARY GUMBO COOK OFF

BENEFITING THE ST. JOSEPH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Gumbo, Beer & Great Times!

Saturday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m.
Vermilionville, Lafayette, LA

Our local Catholic priests will show off their culinary expertise and prepare their own authentic Cajun Gumbo for you to taste and vote!

You get to decide who is the best cook as they go "Collar to Collar" in a fun competition like no other!

Live Cajun Music by Zach Fuselier & Friends!

Allons manger, cher!

MEET THE PRIESTS!



Fr. Gregory Heslip
Legionaries of Christ
Mandeville



Fr. Gregory Chauvin
St. Jules
Lafayette



Fr. Michael Vidrine
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Church Point



Fr. Travis Abadie
St. Francis Regis
Arnaudville



Fr. Chris Cambre
St. Peter
Carencro



Fr. Reed Bellingham
Fr. Garrett McIntyre
St. Bernard
Breaux Bridge



Fr. Stephen Pellessier
Our Lady of Wisdom
Lafayette



Fr. Antonio Maria
Little Friars of Jesus & Mary
Houma



Fr. Donald Bernard
St. Edward
New Iberia

**PURCHASE
TICKETS NOW!**



Tickets include:

- Entry into the event at Vermilionville
- All you can eat of Priests' Gumbo
- Local Beer Selection
- Dessert
- Live Music
- Great Times

COLLARNARYCOOKOFF.COM



Upcoming Events for Parents!

Fides et Ratio
TWO-PART SPEAKER SERIES

Fall Session - Fides
featuring Mrs. Amy Stout
Wed | Nov 8
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
In the Refectory

Spring Session - Ratio
featuring Dr. Cory Hayes
Event details to come.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres
Childcare provided in the gym

PARENT'S CAFE

7:15 AM-7:45 AM ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
LIBRARY AT JPG

COFFEE & COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 28
PREK-3 & 4
PARENTS

NOVEMBER 30
7TH GRADE
PARENTS

Save the Date

NOVEMBER 28

#iGIVECATHOLIC
BENEFITTING

Blessed Frassati Gym
Restroom/Locker Room
Renovations

WAYS TO GIVE

ST. JOSEPH SCHOLARSHIP FUND:
Provides financial aid for JPG families by donating directly to the school or joining our Annual CollarNary Cook Off.

Annual Fund

Enhances academic programs, maintain our historic campus, and enrich non-academic programs by making a secure online donation at
jpgacademy.org/onlinegiving

#iGIVECATHOLIC

SOLA
GIVING DAY

Online giving days with specific focuses.