



APRIL 2023

# THE GUARDIAN

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION AT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY

FROM THE DESK OF

**Mrs. Angela Odinet** HEAD OF SCHOOL

This Lent St. John Vianney's words have echoed in my ears, "You must accept your cross. If you bear it courageously, it will carry you to heaven." From my own years in Catholic school, I know that "embracing or carrying my cross" means more than just picking it up; it means I should do so without complaint, hesitation, and fear. To really carry my cross means to suffer in silence and still share the joy of our faith with others, witness to others the grace and life in suffering. Despite knowing these truths, my cross this year seemed almost unbearable. My thoughts during Lent fell short and did not seek true knowledge as one of the Holy Spirit's gifts. This year, in moments of profound weakness, I sought comfort and relief. I wondered *why am I even trying? What am I doing? Can I carry this cross as Christ is asking me?* I tried to find answers by seeking refuge in our Adoration Chapel or in prayer out on our beautiful grounds around the Pieta statue or by the grotto. I spent time in prayer seeking Christ's face in the amazing community of educators and friends who sacrifice here each day. I spent time just listening to our students, your children, running and playing, or praying together or simply seeking truth. I spent time in awe of all that we had been given. I recognized the blessings and beauty and goodness, but still lost in my thoughts I did not find peace. Rather, I found myself fearful of the fragility of the abundant blessings before me. And so my cross grew heavier.



These feelings and this place of fear were not normal for me. I truly felt lost. Then in the last few days of Lent, very unexpectedly a friend reminded me that the Holy Spirit's gift of knowledge is connected to the theological virtue of Hope. By hope we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength or answers but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. These words left me feeling ashamed for relying on myself yet again and not trusting in Christ's promises. I was humbled in remembering that Christ embraced the cross not to keep me from it or to make sure that my crosses were only small or bearable. Rather, He embraced His cross and conquered death so that our crosses could be changed from instruments of death, doubt, and despair into instruments of healing that bring us to our resurrection of hope and the hope of eternal life.

Grateful for my friend sharing such wisdom, I committed to entering Holy Week with a new perspective. I spent Palm Sunday weekend really present. I found myself more present to my own children, to the community around me, and to the Eucharist during Mass. I spent time thinking about the words first spoken by St. Augustine and later our patron, "*We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our Song.*" I found peace. My heart was full of hope. I was hopeful for the change I saw in myself and for the change I knew our community would experience as we welcome the Easter season and so much more beyond that. I was hopeful in the knowledge that even in my sense of feeling lost and not finding answers I was still guided by His light, putting first things first and unknowingly enjoying the prize of the friendship of God beyond all else.

As you enter into Holy Week, celebrate Easter with your family and friends, and then contemplate the changes that this season naturally brings, I pray you too are hopeful. I pray you see life and growth and wisdom. I pray you find knowledge and His friendship.

*Angela B. Odinet*

## CALENDAR

April 7-14	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> / Easter Holiday
April 18	Arts Night
April 19	Community Conversations
April 20	<i>Totus Tuus</i> Thursday
April 24-28	Capstone Presentation Week 1
April 28	All School Mass
April 29	16th Annual Veritas Lecture & Gala Dinner
May 1-4	Capstone Presentation Week 2
May 1-5	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All School Mass</li><li>• Family Crawfish Boil</li></ul>
May 6	Spring Formal
May 11	Baccalaureate Ceremony & Upper School Awards
May 13	Graduation

OMNIA IN EXCELLENTIA AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM



JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:



## ARTS NIGHT

Upper and Lower School Art Exhibition  
Upper School Musical Showcase

**APRIL 18**  
**6-8PM**

**BL. FRASSATI GYM**

Kindergarten - 6th Grade art work inspired by the artists and style of the Impressionist Movement.

CONTACT MARY KATE CRAMER (ART PREFECT) OR MRS. LITTELL FOR MORE INFO AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

## THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Mr. Lane Melancon for the tireless dedication and hard work he has given to JPG, his *alma mater*, as Maintenance Director for the past three years. It

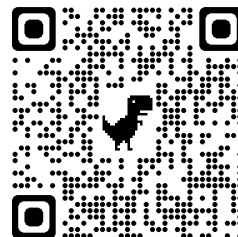


was an honor for the school to welcome Mr. Lane into this role after his beloved father, the late Mr. Randy Melancon. We send our best wishes to Mr. Lane in his newest endeavor and will miss him very much!

Please keep him in your prayers.

## GALA TICKETS

Please help us spread the word! The 16th Annual Veritas Lecture & Gala Dinner is in less than a month on Saturday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Ballroom. Visit [jpgacademy.org/galatickets](http://jpgacademy.org/galatickets) to purchase your ticket today! Scan the code to visit!



WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

## DR. KEVIN ROBERTS

President of The Heritage Foundation,  
Washington D.C.

## APRIL 29, 2023

Roberts is a devout Catholic visionary leading the charge nationally to impact America's public policy to promote true human flourishing.

**DoubleTree By  
Hilton Ballroom**  
**Doors Open at  
6:30 p.m.**

Come to hear a message of  
hope, action, and  
common sense in politics.



Purchase tickets at [JPGAcademy.org/gala](http://JPGAcademy.org/gala)





JOHN PAUL THE GREAT ACADEMY

## SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Perpetual Adoration Chapel  
at John Paul the Great Academy

<b>SUN</b> 9:00 AM 1:00 PM	<b>TUES</b> 10:00 PM	<b>WED</b> 12:00 PM
<b>THURS</b> 3:00 AM	<b>FRI</b> 9:00 AM	<b>SAT</b> 10:00 AM

SIGN UP ONLINE:  
[JPGACADEMY.ORG/ADORATION](http://JPGACADEMY.ORG/ADORATION)

LIST UPDATED AS OF APRIL 1



**COMMITTED ADORERS NEEDED!**

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

Recommit to prayer this upcoming Easter Season with a committed hour or a visit to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Adoration Chapel.

## IMPORTANT FALL DATES

### August 8

- Lower School Meet & Greet 12:00-3:00 p.m.
- New Parent Meeting, Evening, time TBA

### August 10

- First Day of School
- Upper School Orientation (during school)

**August 15:** All School Mass/Assumption

### August 23 :

- Upper School Back to School Night & Pilgrimage Meetings (Parents Only)

**August 30 :** Lower School Back to School Night (Parents Only)

**Sept 4 :** Labor Day, **NO SCHOOL**

**Sept 25-29 :** Upper School Pilgrimage Week

**Sept 29 :** First Academic Quarter Ends

**Oct 2-6 :** Fall Break, **NO SCHOOL**

**Oct 9:** Parent Teacher Conferences, **NO SCHOOL**

**Nov 20-24 :** Thanksgiving Holiday, **NO SCHOOL**

**Dec 18-20 :** US Midterm Exams, 12:00 p.m. Dismissal

**Dec 21-Jan 3 :** Christmas Holiday, **NO SCHOOL**

**Jan 4-5 :** Faculty Development, **NO SCHOOL**

**Jan 8 :** Classes Resume





SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT



All parents, faculty, and staff are invited to participate in these important conversations for our school.

Formerly known as  
*In Communion*

**Wed, April 19**  
**6:00-7:30 pm**  
**Refectory**

## Family Crawfish Boil

*Honoring the Class of 2023*

**FRIDAY, MAY 5**

**\$20 - 3lbs of  
crawfish + corn  
& potatoes**

**Drinks & Dessert  
available for  
donation**

**Purchase tickets in the  
Front Office!**

*Proceeds benefit Junior  
Rome Pilgrimage*



## Popsicle Pop-Up

A fundraiser to purchase needed, developmentally appropriate materials for the Guardian Faculty St. Philomena Nursery.



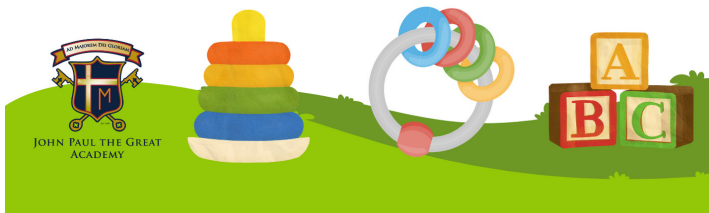
**\$2/** OUTSHINE  
FRUIT  
POPSICLE



**Wednesdays**  
**April 17- May 24**



For Grades K-6th during  
their Lower School lunch  
recess time



## Baccalaureate Ceremony & Upper School Awards

**Thursday, May 11**

**Blessed Frassati Gym | 6:00 p.m.**

Valedictorian	Subject Awards
Salutatorian	Athletic Award
Capstone <i>Cum Laude</i>	Senior Pin/Rings
Virtue Awards	House Cup

Join us to honor the achievements of the Class of 2023 and all Upper School students.



All Upper School students are required to attend Baccalaureate in their full Mass Day Uniform (there is no Mass at the Baccalaureate Ceremony) All guests are welcome to attend!