

December 7th, 2025



St. Joseph Parish School Lancer Times

Weekly online school communication from the Leadership Team

Administration email: principal@stjosephgrafton.org

Important Dates to Remember

- Mass for Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Mon. 12/8
- Tot Open Gym - Wed. 12/10
- All School Advent Prayer Service, 8:30am - Wed. 12/10
- No School Mass - Th. 12/11
- December Outreach SVdP gifts due to homerooms - Th. 12/11
- Mass of the Feast of Guadalupe at 8:30am; 3rd Hospitality to follow - Fri. 12/12
- Feast of St Lucy (St Lucy will visit all classrooms) - Fri. 12/12
- K4 Gingerbread House Making, 1:30pm - Fri. 12/12
- All School Advent Prayer Service, 8:30am - Wed. 12/17
- All School Advent Retreat, 9:00 - 10:30am - Wed. 12/17
- Christmas Concert dress rehearsal, 10:00am - Th. 12/18
- Christmas Bowling, 1pm - Th. 12/18
- Christmas Concert, 5:45pm - Th. 12/18 **Date/time change**
- **ALL CALENDAR OF CASH TICKETS DUE - Fri. 12/19**
- K5 - 4th Singing at Harvest Home - Fri. 12/19
- Christmas Break, 12/20 - 1/4/26

~ A Message from the Leadership Team ~



Dear St. Joseph Parish School Families:

It really is hard to believe that we have already reached the second Sunday of Advent! Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, and it is a season that invites us to slow down and focus on the true spirit of Christmas. In the midst of our busy lives, Advent provides an opportunity to deepen our faith and renew our commitment to God, to each other, and to the world around us. It is a time to prepare our hearts for the peace, love, and joy that the birth of Christ brings to our lives.

This week at St. Joseph Parish School we will be celebrating two very important days in the life of the Church. On Monday, we will attend Mass with our parishioners to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Then on Friday, we will attend Mass again to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Two days that recognize and honor Mary and the role that she played in bringing Jesus to all of us. If you are available at 8:30 on either Monday or Friday, please come and celebrate these special days with us.

Since we will be attending Mass on Friday, December 12th, we are respectfully requesting that students dress in uniform and do not use any dress down passes they may have. To make up the opportunity for them to use their pass this week, students may use them on Thursday, 12/11 instead since we will not be attending Mass. Thank you in advance for your help and support with this.

Blessings,

St. Joseph Parish School Leadership Team

St. Joseph Parish School

CALENDAR OF CASH



Want a chance to win a cash prize?
The Calendar of Cash is back!
BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Cash Prizes
are \$25, \$50
or \$100!



HOW IT WORKS

- Purchase tickets, from any school family, in the school office during the week, or the parish office on Sundays after Mass through Dec. 19th.
- Winners will be pulled on school days between 1/5/26-3/27/26, with winners announced weekly in the Lancer Times, school Facebook page and the Parish bulletin.
- Each winning ticket is reentered for multiple chances to win!
- Winners will be mailed a check.

All ticket information must be filled out completely; incomplete tickets will be void.

BUY TICKETS BY
DECEMBER 19, 2025



www.stjosephgrafton.org/school



(262) 375-6505 Ext. 0

A Message from the SJPS
School Advisory Committee

December 5, 2025

To our St. Joseph Parish School Parent Community,

As members of the School Advisory Committee, as well as parents of students in our school, one of our highest priorities is safety. That's why we are taking on an issue that's affecting our entire community: the drop-off/pick-up lines. I know we have all experienced frustration with various aspects of the current configuration; there is a reason this is a cliché problem area for so many schools! However, I know we can also agree that we all care more deeply about the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff than our small, impatient annoyances.

In light of the issues we've been having, and following the recommended guidelines of other local area elementary schools, we are moving forward with some changes to the drop-off/pick-up lines.

Firstly, as a reminder, please see the attached diagram for the **correct way to enter and exit the parking lot**. Entrance Only occurs from 17th Avenue. Exit Only occurs from Bridge Street. These are the only acceptable uses for these spaces during the drop-off/pick-up periods.

Secondly, **adults that want or need to exit their cars to help with buckling, give hugs, need extra time, or for any reason at all are always welcome to do so, by parking in the East side of the parking lot**, separate from the drop-off/pick-up line (marked on the map in pink, as park here). If you choose this option, please walk your child to the sidewalk and under the overhang, keeping clear of the drop-off/pick-up line (see attached diagram). In contrast, for the safety of all, **adults using the drop-off/pick-up line are not allowed to exit their cars**. Children in the drop-off/pick-up lines should exit and enter the vehicle from the passenger side. **NO ONE should walk through the drop-off/pick-up line for any reason at any time**.

Thirdly, during pick-up, **teachers will release students by total family to get into their cars**. Please remember that school does not officially end until 3:15, and it should be parents' expectation that students won't be released prior to this time.

Again, safety is our number one priority, and the procedures outlined are to ensure a safe start and end to each and every school day. **Please share this with any additional family members participating in the drop-off or pick-up processes**. If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the School Advisory Committee.

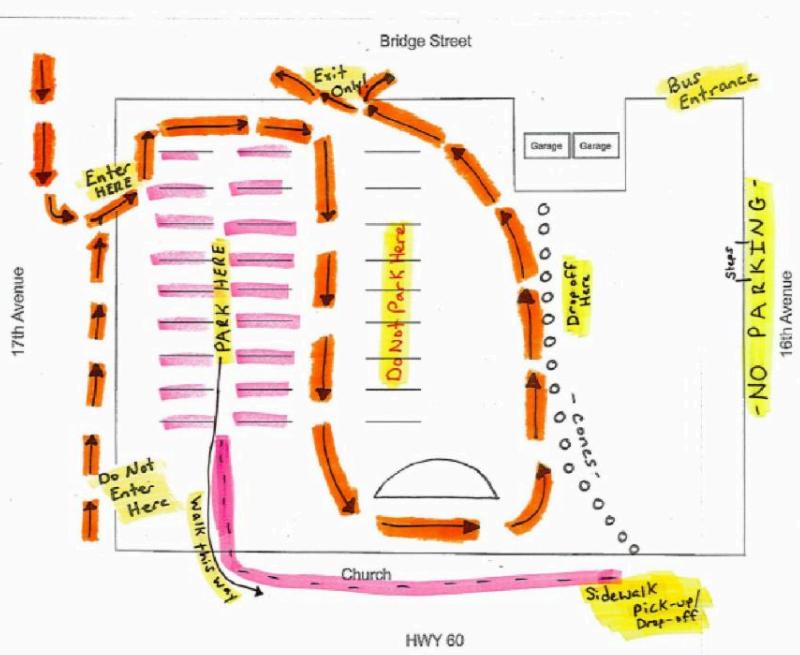
Thanks for your support!

ENTER

EXIT

For safety purposes, please only ENTER the parking lot from the **17th Avenue** driveway and EXIT only onto **Bridge St** during morning drop-off between **8:00 - 8:15am** and during afternoon pick-up between **3:00 - 3:20pm**.

Thank you for your support in maintaining a safe SJPS campus





Our Lenten **St. Joseph Fish Fries** are rapidly approaching! If you would like to get involved in the planning process, please join us at our meeting on Monday December 15th at 6:30 PM in the St. Joseph School Library.

Role	Description
- Marketing and Signage Captain	- Arrange with local media to share promotional material for fish fry events
- Dessert Captain	- Coordinate dessert emails for school families and parish bakers; assist with day of set up and portioning
- Sponsor Captain	- Reach out to local businesses for sponsors to offset costs
- Scheduling/Volunteer Captain	- Manage Sign up genius for volunteers and assign volunteer roles for each fish fry
- Fryer Captain	- Manage main fryers during fish fries to cook during each event
- Beverage Captain	- Recruit bartenders for the events, pick up alcohol and NA beverages for each event

Contact Andrea Hayes (Arakoczy13@gmail.com, cell: 262-617-8128) if you are interested or with questions. More communications will be sent out after Christmas for the event-time volunteering.

We look forward to seeing you at the St. Joseph Fish Fries!



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL RAISERIGHT

'Tis the season for giving... and earning at the same time! Remember to buy gift cards, shop online, or dine at participating restaurants through St. Joseph Parish School's RaiseRight program.

Every purchase helps earn money for St. Joseph Parish School's Home & School and in turn give a percentage back to your school account.

HOW TO ORDER:

OPTION 1

Order online at raiseright.com/shop-online

Enrollment code is A2F8B5C91447

(Scan the QR code to take you directly to connect to our school)

Orders will be sent to you directly and can be placed at anytime.

*Online orders that exceed 15 gift cards will be sent to the school office. Please place these orders by 12/11/25 to be included in the school batch order. If not they will be included in the next order after Christmas.



OPTION 2

Order in the school office or over the phone with Daphne Lingsweiler, 262-375-6505, ext. 0. These orders need to be placed and payment received by 12/11/25 at 3pm to make it into this order. Anything received after will be included in an order after Christmas.

Orders placed through the school office can be picked up starting on Thursday, December 18th from 7:45am-3:45pm. Please contact Daphne Lingsweiler in the school office at 262-375-6505 ext.0 with any questions or accommodations.

We appreciate your support!

Weekly Classroom Highlights

By: Mrs. Temple, K5 Teacher

At St. Joseph Parish School, we have implemented a buddy system that pairs older students with younger ones. This program fosters friendships, enhances social skills, nurtures empathy and compassion, boosts self-confidence, and improves social-emotional well-being. Throughout the year, classes sit together in church and participate in various activities. Specifically, our K5 and third-grade students meet weekly to strengthen these bonds. The classes work together as they engage in reading and writing, collaborate on art projects, and develop social skills. These students look forward to the weekly meetings and develop lasting friendships. Overall, our buddy system is a vital part of our school community, creating connections and growth opportunities for all the students involved.



If you are just using one photo, I would go with the first one. Thanks! Susan

~ GIFT CARDS OF GRATITUDE ~

A **HUGE** thank you to all the SJPS families who graciously donated gift cards from various local establishments and varying amounts to be used this year as a way to show appreciation for our SJPS Staff!



Each full, 5-day week, during announcements, a student randomly draws a staff member's name and they are awarded a "gift card of gratitude." This is an unbelievably generous and exciting gift we are able to share with our staff.

Winners so far this year:

- Miss Cathy - \$100 Amazon
- Ms. Longoria - \$25 Amazon
- Mrs. Temple - \$25 Culvers
- Mrs. Vaculik - \$10 Culvers
- Miss Cheryl - \$5 Culvers
- Mrs. Gratz - \$5 Starbucks
- Mr. Smith - \$25 Target
- Ms. Myers - \$10 Amazon
- Mrs. O'Dell - \$5 Culvers

SJPS at Weekend Masses

This year, as a school, we will be collectively focusing on continuing to enhance our School-Parish connection. To that regard, each month, a homeroom/grade will be featured at a weekend Mass!

What this all includes is: students are invited to attend Mass with their families (preferably in uniform), a piece of work they have done or an activity will be set up in the Gathering Space for parishioners to see how awesome we are as a school and to invite them to interact with school families, Fr. Tim will say a little "blurb" during Mass to showcase that grade and a light hospitality will be provided.

A schedule of each homeroom's weekend Masses are:

- **January 24th - 25th @ all Masses - All classes (Catholic Schools Week)**
- **February 14th @ 4:00pm - K4**
- **March 15th @ 8:00am - 2nd & 3rd**
- **April 19th @ 10:30am - 5th - 8th**

~ Community Announcements~

~ Information from Previous Lancer Times~



St Joseph Parish School Theatre Department is excited to announce our upcoming production of Moana Jr! Show dates are Thursday and Friday, May 14th and 15th, 2026. This year's production will also be including our 3rd Graders for the first time since our production of The Wizard of Oz! More information will come your way after Christmas, with auditions happening in late January.

If you might be interested in volunteering to assist with the production, kindly contact Andy Smith (asmith@stjosephgrafton.org)



SJPS Moms Advent Small Group

Take time to pause, reflect, and connect with other SJPS moms this December!

Together, we'll walk through scripture passages and spiritual readings rooted in Ignatian spirituality.

- **When:** Weekly on **Monday nights at 7:30 PM** (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22)
- **Where:** St. Joseph Parish Church
- **Cost:** **Free!** A digital booklet with daily prayer material is included.

Come as you are—all are welcome!

Sign up via the Google Form [here!](#)

For questions or more information, reach out to Bridget Hutchison
(bridget.hutchison14@gmail.com).

TOT OPEN GYM

Join us in the St. Joseph Parish School gym from **8:30-10am** to run and play! Open to children ages 6 and under not currently in school. Caregivers must stay with children.



Please enter through the main School doors and sign in with the office when you arrive.



October 29
November 12
December 10
January 7
January 21



MINI MUSICAL MONDAYS

Mr. Smith, the music teacher, will lead children in some lively sing-alongs and hands-on instrument fun one Monday a month! Join us in the St. Joseph Parish School music room at **9am** to sing and have fun! Open to children ages 6 and under not currently in school. Caregivers must stay with children.

Please enter through the main School doors and sign in with the office when you arrive.



November 3
December 1
January 5
February 2
March 9
April 13
May 4



SJPS Extended Care: If you are in need of childcare for your SJPS student, we are pleased to offer both morning (6:30 - 8:00am) and evening (3:15 - 6:00pm) childcare through our Extended Care Program. Please use the link provided below to sign up your student(s).

*We know things happen, but if you need to sign-up for a day after the Monday of that week, please

reach out to Amanda Christian via email @ achristian@stjosephgrafton.org or through the Extended Care Class Dojo to confirm your child's placement

[December Extended Care Sign Up](#)

<u>Safe Environment Training Registration</u>	<u>Drop-off/Pick-Up Map</u>	<u>SAC Meeting Minutes</u>
<u>Donate to our Annual Fund</u>	<u>Parish Bulletin Look-up</u>	<u>Visit our website</u>

**St. Joseph Parish School
1619 Washington St. Grafton, WI
262-375-6505**

School Office email: schooloffice@stjosephgrafton.org

Administration: principal@stjosephgrafton.org

-St Joseph Parish School: Teaching, Learning, Leading and Serving as the Hands of Christ-

St. Joseph Parish | 1619 Washington Street 262-375-6505 | Grafton, WI 53024 US

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