

JMJ CHS

Dear Holy Spirit school families.

Greetings.

Looking forward to *The Chili Cookoff*. I will be manning the Alka-Seltzer booth. 🍷🍷  
It's been my tradition to make something in my rectory woodshop to put in the raffle, and I'm working hard this week to finish up a project. it will be different.

Maybe you heard about the new St. Philomena book that has arrived in our bookstore gift shop. It was written and illustrated by Father Peregrine Fletcher (O Praem) from his Norbertine Monastery in California. It's quite nice. May I suggest that you give one (or more) as a Christmas gift, first to your children, and then to others. And be prepared to share with those others our story here at Holy Spirit. It's available online on our [website](#).

The International St. Philomena Shrine of our patron saint is in the little town of Mugnano, Italy near Naples. I recently had occasion to contact the rector there and ask him for special prayers for our school in front of the relics of our dear Saint. For many years, we have hoped to grow our school and even make a gymnasium for the activities of our young people, particularly during the winter months. While fresh air is good, there is a lot of time wasted dressing up, heading up the hill to the playground, and then coming down and undressing and getting back into the groove of classroom work. And then there are of course, growing security concerns. So, most certainly, the gymnasium would be a welcome addition. But the Covid thing certainly slowed down our plans and at least in my mind, forced me to think a little bit outside the box. The world is now a different place and I have concerns that things are not going to get better. (At least until The Second Coming.) I look at the situation in the Middle East and wonder if it might expand. If that's the case, should we even be thinking about a gymnasium, or should we be thinking about it even more, but, with some changes? I'm of the opinion that it would also have to be a refuge, of sorts, to assist not only ourselves, but also our neighbors. A food bank, a shelter, a warming station, a place to take a hot shower? We've had a few substantial power outages recently and we've seen that something as simple and as localized as that can certainly produce a great deal of inconvenience. So, maybe we should prepare to be of help to those who live nearby.

In any case, please join me in praying to St. Joseph for his guidance and wisdom, as we continue to ponder our future as a church and school community

This is *National Week of Prayer for Vocations* and I will be talking to the children about that subject at this week's Masses. Maybe you've heard about *The Vocation Chalice*. It had disappeared but it's back! Some years ago, it was purchased as a sacramental that individuals and families could take into their homes for a week to pray for vocations to the priesthood. I would encourage you to visit our Book & Gift Shop and sign it out for a week of prayer in your family.

As you know, I've been a big promoter of watching that Jesus TV show called *The Chosen*. Season four will be coming out in February and at least the first two episodes will again be in the theaters. I'm looking forward to it. But we're going to do something a little bit different here in the parish this Christmas. We plan to show a Jesus movie from an earlier generation. It came out when I was about 30 years old and was very helpful to me in my spiritual growth. It was very well done with a cast that included many of the great actors of that time. I consider it a classic and I would like to invite all of you to come. It begins quite early in the Life of Christ, with the Annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary, announcing the birth of her son. It will be on December 9 after Mass and pizza, popcorn and Christmas cookies will be served. I sure hope you can make it. I'm sure it will do much to enhance your Christmas spirit!

~Fr. John