

BLUE GOLD MEMO

SAINT ROSE *of* LIMA  CATHOLIC SCHOOL

500 KINGS HIGHWAY | HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ | 08055

100 YEARS

856-346-6166 | STROSENJ.COM

December 7, 2025

Dear St. Rose of Lima Families,

As we enter this season of Advent, I want to take a moment to pause with all of you and reflect on this season of hope, anticipation, and preparation. A time when we look forward to the coming of Jesus with joyful and expectant hearts.

In the midst of the excitement, the decorating, the gift buying, the school events, and the busy schedules that fill our December days, Advent gently invites us to slow down, to breathe, and to make space for Christ. To create moments of peace in our homes, in our hearts, and to reflect on the blessings around us. We prepare not just for Christmas morning, but for the coming of Jesus in our daily lives.

In our classrooms, we are taking time to focus on gratitude, kindness, the spirit of the Christmas season and the light of Christ that guides our days. May we look for small moments of grace, serve one another with love, and keep our hearts centered on the hope of the Nativity.

I am very grateful for your support, and for the partnership we share in helping our students grow in faith, learning, and love. May this Advent season fill your home with warmth, may the light of Christ bring peace to your hearts, and may you feel God's presence in each and every moment.

I wish you a blessed and joyful Advent season, a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

In Christ,

Dr. Deirdre Rood

Principal's Notes:

DATE CHANGE: Falcon THURSDAY this week instead of Friday

Due to the Christmas Concert this Friday, we will be moving our scheduled Falcon Friday to Thursday 12/11/25. We will also be having [Pretzels for a Purpose](#) that day as well. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Excessive Tardiness

We have noticed an increase in excessive tardiness to school. When the students arrive late it is a disruption to the classroom and the student's school work. We do understand that some students may have an early morning doctor's appointment and will be late. Excessive tardiness will result in a conference with the principal. Thank you for your understanding.



Parking Lot Safety: REMINDER

As mentioned in the Weekly Wrap last week, beginning on Monday, December 1, **parents dropping students off at the gym doors in the morning are not permitted to turn into the church parking lot for drop off.** We have had too many near-accidents involving students, and their safety is our number one priority. Parents choosing to drop off at this location will need to drop students at the sidewalk on 4th Ave. Students will be permitted to walk down the walk-ways adjacent to the fence line in the church parking lot. Students are not permitted to walk in the area where cars drive. This is a busy time of day because of morning drop off, and morning Mass. Thank you for your cooperation.



Christmas Dress Down Day

Friday, December 19

We will be allowing students to have a Christmas Dress Down Day Friday, December 19. As a reminder, we will be attending Mass as a school on Friday. Please be certain that their clothing is appropriate for Mass. (No shorts, pajamas, or costumes permitted.) All other dress down rules apply.

November Students of the Month

Congratulations to our November students of the month, recognized for excellence in the virtue of generosity! [Please click here to see why these students were chosen for this honor.](#) December's virtue is Gratitude. If you would like a printable page about Gratitude. to hang at home to reinforce this month's virtue, [please click here.](#) For questions or more information about our Student of the Month program, please reach out to coordinator Lisa Coulter at lcoulter9@comcast.net

							
KA - Mikie S.	KB - Quinn N.	1A - Scarlett C.	1B - Morgan A.	2A - Lucas C.	2B - Loclyn K.	3A - Nora S.	3B - Adeline B.
<div><div><p>Congratulations to our</p><p>NOVEMBER 2025</p><p>Students of the Month!</p><p>Recognized for Excellence in the Virtue of: Generosity</p></div></div>							
							
5B - Christian S.	6A - Tessa R.	6B - McKenzie R.	7A - Veronica P.	7B - Lily C.	8A - Sean F.	8B - Katie F.	Spanish: Vincent B. (6A)



1st Quarter Honor Roll

Congratulations to the St. Rose of Lima Students who made the honor roll for the 1st Quarter! [Please click here for the list of Honor Roll students.](#) Keep up the great work!

Rosebud Academy ROUND-UP

TK & the Annual Gingerbread Exchange!

Mrs. Mondoro's TK students are participating with 25 other kindergarten and preschool classrooms across the country as each student makes a gingerbread kid and writes a letter about their preschool and their area to share about their locales. As new gingerbread kids come in the mail, they will be adding them to the map!



2026-2027 Tuition Assistance and Re-Registration

Re-Registration

Re-Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will be open on December 15.

We are excited to be moving to a new online platform called FinalSite for enrollment. You will be receiving an email from FinalSite with detailed instructions and a link to re-register on December 15. The fee for registration will be going up to \$150 per student this year. Please see below for important dates. **Please also note that there will be no \$40 enrollment fee to pay through FACTS this year.**



St. Rose of Lima School: Grades K through 8

Early-Bird Discounted Re-enrollment Fee: \$125 (if you re-enroll by January 19)

Regular Re-enrollment Fee: \$150 (January 20 through February 16)

Late Re-enrollment Fee: \$165 (After February 17)

Kindergarten and all New Students Registration Fee: \$150 (All dates)

Tuition Assistance:

The Tuition Assistance Portal will be open beginning on Tuesday December 9 for Tuition Assistance for the 2026-2027 school year. Although we will not be using FACTS for our tuition management for the 2026-2027 school year, tuition assistance applications continue to be processed by FACTS. Please complete your tuition assistance applications by **March 15, 2026**. [Please click here for information on applying for tuition assistance for next year.](#)



Donation Updates:

2024-2025 Annual Fund: Thank you to those of you who supported our 2024-2025 Annual Fund campaign which raised \$112,000! We are gearing up to send the annual fund letters out for the 2025-2026 year and wanted to share the [2025 Donation Report](#) with you. Please reach out to Mrs. Callinan with any questions about the Annual Fund at acallinan@strosenj.com

Giving Tuesday: Rosebud Academy's Playground

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Rosebud Academy playground fund for Giving Tuesday last week. We were able to raise \$2,125 from 27 donors. We look forward to doing more with this campaign to help Rosebud have an inclusive sensory playground! If you think your office or company might like to help support this playground, please reach out to Mrs. Watson to chat about how they can get involved. fwatson@strosenj.com



Christmas Pageant!

December 12, 2025 @ 1:00 p.m.

Christmas Pageant:

Friday, December 12 at 1:00 p.m.

(NEW TIME! Previously 1:30 start time)

Our school Christmas Pageant will be held on Friday, December 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the school gym. [Please click here for information about the dress code for each grade for the Christmas Pageant.](#) **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Christmas Donations Due: **DECEMBER 12**

The Social Action Committee would like to say a huge thank you again to all of the families who donated for helping to provide meals for families at Thanksgiving! We are now collecting food for Christmas baskets! Would you consider donating again to help these families in need this Christmas? Please [click here for a list](#) of what each grade is being asked to contribute. Thank you as always for your generosity!



Extra Care

[The January AfterCare form is now available here.](#) **Reminder:** Please send hats, gloves and scarves to school with children when coming to after care. We do try to take the children outside even if only for 10 minutes or so when the weather is dry. It is also a good idea to label these items so that we can get them back to you if they are misplaced.



Recess Duty

Thank you to all of our recess duty volunteers. There are still many spots open in [December \(Click here\)](#) and also in [January. \(Click here\)](#) We know it is cold out there during these months so be sure to bundle up!

RECESS



National Junior Honor Society

The NJHS would like to thank all those students and families who help raise money for our Pretzels for a Purpose charities. Last month we collected close to \$300. in memory of our dear Mrs. Murray. This week we will be having our pretzels on THURSDAY, December 11th and we will be raising money in support of Rosebud Academy's "Space to Play with Room to Grow" playground fund. [Click here for the order form.](#)

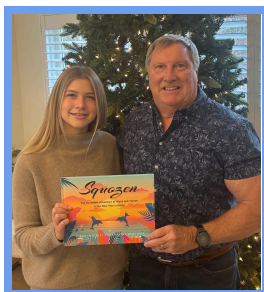


The NJHS was again able to work with the Grandparents Club to send Christmas cards for seniors and housebound individuals who could use a little Christmas cheer!

Barnes & Noble Book Fair



Thank you to all the creative performing artists who helped to make this year's Barnes and Noble Christmas Event such a joy! It was wonderful to be able to enjoy the live performances and share it with the B&N shoppers! A special thank you to Mrs. Reich, Mr. Cava, and our new band director Mrs Blair for sharing their amazing talent in helping to showcase our students. Thank you to Dr. Rood and all the teachers, parents, and students who came out during this busy time of year to support this event.



We are pleased to announce another published author in our St. Rose community. Eighth grader, Delaney Whylings co-authored a book with her grandfather, Joseph Meckley entitled Squozen, The Incredible Adventure of Alexa and Tanner to the Blue Hole in Belize. They have donated a copy to our library, so it is available to be checked out!

Athletic Committee Eagles Fundraiser

Extended Deadline - Tickets due:

Wednesday, December 10

We're in the final days of our [Eagles Raffle to support SRL Athletics!](#) Each family with a student athlete is asked to sell 5 tickets at \$10 each. **Please return stubs & money by Wednesday, Dec 10.** (label envelope Eagles Fundraiser). Please make checks payable to St. Rose of Lima School. All proceeds support equipment, uniforms & safe facilities for our student athletes. **The drawing will be December 12 at 6:00 p.m.** You do not need to be present to win. Thank you for supporting SRL Athletics! Questions or need more tickets? Gail: 609-206-6964 or Karen: 856-906-4960



Adopt A Family Gift Deadline: December 12

Thank you to all of the families who are participating in our Adopt A Family service project with the Holy Name section of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden! **Gifts should be sent in with your students no later than December 12.** Please send gifts **unwrapped**, and consider sending wrapping paper and bows in as well. If you are sending a clothing item, please send the item in a box with tissue paper ready to be wrapped. *Homeroom teachers are collecting items and the Adopt A Family Coordinator will pick them up from homerooms. Thank you for your generosity!*



PTA Dine and Donate: December 15



The PTA is hosting a Dine and Donate at the Chipotle in Barrington on December 15 from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. [Please click here for the flyer with more information.](#)

Seussical The Musical Interest Meeting: **Wed., December 17 2:30 - 3:15 in cafe**

This meeting is for interested students in grades 3-8 only. Parents are welcome to attend the meeting but are not required to attend. More information will be coming soon about participating in our Junior Ensemble. (Grades K-2)



Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Event
December 7	Family Mass @ 5:30 p.m. 3rd & 4th Grade Host
December 8	NO SCHOOL - <i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i> Holy Day of Obligation: Masses at St. Rose at 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
December 9	Knights of Columbus Poster Contest Entries Due
December 10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fall Picture Retakes 2. NJHS Groups 2 & 3 Rosebud Christmas Visit 9:50am to 11:15am 3. Eagles Raffle Tickets due for Athletics Fundraiser
December 11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Falcon "Thursday" & Pretzels for a Purpose 2. Band Christmas Concert - 7:00 p.m. in the church
December 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Falcon Friday previously scheduled for this day moved to 12/11. 2. School Christmas Pageant - 1:00 p.m. in the Gym (All are welcome!) 3. Adopt-A-Family Gifts Due to classrooms 4. Food Bank Donations Due
December 14	Family Mass @ 5:30 p.m. 5th & 6th Grade Host
December 17	Seussical the Musical Interest Meeting @ 2:30 p.m. in the cafeteria (Grades 3-8 only for this first meeting)
December 19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christmas Dress Down Day 2. 8:30 Mass 3. HALF DAY - 12:00 Dismissal 4. NO AfterCare Today
Dec 20 - Jan 4	NO SCHOOL - MERRY CHRISTMAS!  School resumes on Monday, January 5
FAMILY MASSES DURING BREAK	December 21 Family Mass @ 5:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade Host December 28 Family Mass @ 5:30 p.m. Alumni & HS Students Host January 4 Family Mass @ 5:30 p.m. 3rd & 4th Grade Host
January 5	<i>School Resumes - Welcome Back!</i> 
January 9	School Mass @ 8:30 a.m.
January 11	Family Mass @ 5:30 p.m. 5th & 6th Grade Host