

# In The News at St. John Paul II

## December 2025

### Holy Mackerels

- Holy Mackerels are certificates given to students "caught doing good." The original is sent home, and a copy is added to our fishing net. Each week, six names are drawn, and the winners choose a prize from the basket. It's a fun way to celebrate kindness. The following students received Holy Mackerels since our last newsletter: Sky, Ziggy, Olivia W., Kirsa, Ellowyn, Molly, Weston, Austin, Ben B., Parker, Luan, Olivia Da., Olivia L., Owen, Aryan, Foster and Charles x2. Well Done!!

### Happy Birthday

Celebrating a December Birthday: Georgia, Kai, Jameson, Forest, Thomas, Jonathan W., Johnathan A., Karston, Lyla, Ms. Anderson and Kaiden.

- May God bless you on your very special day!



Feeling sick? Staying home?  
Let the office know.  
**Call 250-723-0637**  
**Email [cgogo@cisdv.bc.ca](mailto:cgogo@cisdv.bc.ca)**

# December Special Dates

Wed., Dec. 3 - NO After School Care -  
Staff Meeting &  
PSG Meeting at 6:30 pm



Fri., Dec. 5 - Adoration & Mass at 9:00 am at HFND Church  
- Div 4 Class to attend.  
Early Dismissal at 2:00 pm and report cards sent home  
Spirit Red & Green Day and Winter Wonderland  
from 2:30 to 3:30 pm.



Thurs., Dec. 11 - Christmas Shopping Day  
at St. JPII



Fri., Dec. 12 - School Mass at 1:00 pm,  
Early Dismissal at 2:00 pm



Thurs., Dec. 18 - Christmas Musical "A Christmas Yarn"  
Performances at 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm



Fri., Dec. 19 - Christmas Sweater Day  
Early Dismissal at Noon.  
Christmas holidays begin.



## Merry Christmas

Wed., Dec 24 - 5 pm Family Mass OR  
8 pm Mass at  
Holy Family Notre Dame Church

Thurs., Dec 25 - 10 am Mass

Thurs., Jan 1 - New Years Mass 10 am

Mon., Jan. 5, 2026 School Re Opens  
8:40 am to 3:00 pm



## Happy New Year

2026

# December 2025

St. John Paul II Catholic School Presents  
“A Christmas Yarn”

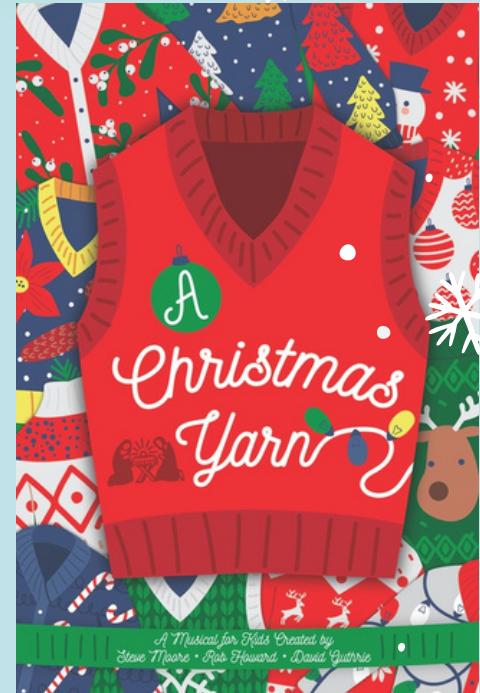
A Musical for Kids

Steve Moore, Rob Howard & David Guthrie

December 18, 2025

Afternoon Performance at 1:00 pm

\* Evening Performance at 6:00 pm



At Unique Gifts from Luxurious Yarns (U.G.L.Y.), ugly is beautiful! At the factory of the world's leading supplier of ugly Christmas sweaters, founder Sam Ebenezer pulls all the strings to make sure no stitch is dropped. With a huge order looming to get out the day before Christmas, the team of Bob Cratchit ("that's pronounced Cro-shay"), Tiny Tom and others weave together a plan of attack, while Sam encounters three mysterious visitors who not only help overcome some ugly obstacles but bring the beautiful, good news of Christmas! With apologies to a well-loved Christmas carol, don your ugliest Christmas sweater and have a dickens of a good time!





## December 2025



What is Advent?

The people of Israel waited for generations for the promised Messiah to arrive. Their poetry, their songs and stories, and their religious worship focused on an awaited savior who would come to them to set them free from captivity and to lead them to the fulfillment of all that God had promised.

Israel longed for a Messiah, and John the Baptist, who came before Jesus, promised that the Messiah was coming and could be found in Jesus Christ, God's Son, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Advent is a season in the Church's life intended to renew the experience of waiting and longing for the Messiah. Though Christ has already come into the world, the Church invites us to renew our desire for the Lord more deeply in our lives and to renew our desire for Christ's triumphant second coming into the world.

Advent is the time in which we prepare for Christmas, the memorial of Jesus Christ being born into the world. Preparations are practical, like decorating trees and gift giving, but they're also intended to be spiritual.

During Advent, we're invited to enter more frequently into silence, into prayer and reflection, into Scripture, and into the sacramental life of the Church — all to prepare for celebrating Christmas.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says the goal of Advent is to make present for ourselves and our families the "ancient expectancy of the Messiah ... by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming."



# December 2025

## What is Jesse Tree?

Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree. Each day of Advent, read a Bible story about someone on Jesus's family tree and hang an ornament symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you'll see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations.



## Where does Jesse Tree come from?

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.

# December 2025

## ST. JPII WRESTLERS

Our athletes did their school community proud by demonstrating skill, tenacity, fortitude, and sportsmanship in both victory and defeat. Of the eighteen athletes that attended the event, all placed within the top four in their weight class and nine won their divisions.

Bravo and Congratulations to all our wrestlers!!



# December 2025

## 2025-2026 Wrestling Team



Bravo and congratulations to all of our cross country runners! Despite braving the rainy weather during the year-end cross country race, your dedication and perseverance shone through. You did your school proud!!



## 2025-2026 Cross Country Team

