Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

September 2026 Newsletter

Chairman's Corner

By: Brian Middleton

Teaching Our Children How to Think

As we begin another school year, I want to reflect on an assertion we frequently make at Regina Academy:
We do not teach our students what to think. We teach them how to think.

What does that actually mean?

Teaching children how to think means forming them to seek truth.

It means teaching them to ask good questions, examine assumptions, listen carefully, recognize contradictions, evaluate evidence, and distinguish knowledge from opinion. It means cultivating the humility to remain teachable and the courage to stand firmly for what is true.

At Regina Academy, we believe that truth exists, that it can be known, and that it finds its fullness in Jesus Christ. Every subject we teach is part of the child's search for that truth.

This formation has never been more important.
Our children are growing up in an age of almost unlimited information and increasingly scarce wisdom. Social media, popular culture, artificial intelligence, advertisers, influencers, and political movements compete constantly for their attention. Each voice seeks to shape what they believe, what they desire, what they fear, and even how they understand themselves.

Much of this communication appeals immediately to emotion. It invites a response before reflection. The loudest, most attractive, and most persistent voices can easily become the most influential. Feelings become the basis of decision making. Opinion, not reality, is the reason for the choice.

Our children need an intellectual and spiritual foundation strong enough to help them encounter these voices with confidence, discernment, and wisdom.

A Regina Academy education begins with a clear understanding of the human person. Every child is created in the image and likeness of God. Each possesses reason to recognize what is true, freedom to choose what is good, and a soul capable of knowing and loving God.

Intellectual formation, moral formation, and spiritual formation therefore belong together.

How we think shapes what we desire. What we desire influences the choices we make. Our choices become habits. Our habits form our character. And our character determines the direction of our lives.

This is why classical education matters.

Through literature, history, philosophy, theology, mathematics, science, and the arts, our students learn to encounter reality with wonder and discipline.



Through Socratic dialogue, they learn to ask questions, examine ideas, and explain their conclusions. Through the Catholic faith, they discover the first principles that give order, purpose, and meaning to everything else they learn.

They learn to unite intelligence with humility, knowledge with wisdom, truth with love, and freedom with responsibility.

We want Regina Academy students to be rigorous with themselves, charitable toward others, and firmly grounded in truth. We want them to respect genuine authority, exercise sound judgment, recognize the limits of their knowledge, welcome correction, and remain teachable throughout their lives.

We are forming participants—young men and women prepared to enter the arena, accept responsibility, defend what is true, protect what is good and beautiful, and serve the people God places before them.

They will be called to do the good directly before them: to tell the truth, defend the vulnerable, strengthen a family, encourage a friend, resist evil, serve their communities, and take the next right step.

That is what it means to teach children how to think.
It means forming young people who can recognize truth, choose the good, appreciate beauty, and act with wisdom and courage. It means preparing them to understand the world, engage it faithfully, and help transform it into what God intends it to be.

To our parents: thank you.

By choosing The Academy, you have made a courageous and deeply consequential decision. You have chosen an education that prepares your children for more than academic success. You are preparing them for lives of meaning, purpose, and fulfillment. You are helping them discover who they are, why they exist, and what God is calling them to become.

The times before us will require young people of faith, wisdom, courage, and character. God has entrusted these children to you—and to all of us—because they have a particular purpose in His plan.

They were born for times such as these.
Together, with God's grace, we will help prepare them to answer that call.

UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER

9/2	Welcome Back! K-8
9/8	Preschool Preview Day
9/9	Welcome Back PreK
9/9	Moms & Minis 8:45-9:45
9/10	Back to School Night 6:30 Gymnasium
9/12	Polish Festival/Shrine
9/13	Polish Festival/Shrine
9/13	School Mass 10:30
9/14	FabLab week
9/17	Mugs & Moms 8:45
9/17	Garden Club 3:30-4:30
9/19	AbbeyFest/Shrine
9/20	Parish Picnic 12:00
9/21	March for Life
9/23	Garden & Chess Club 3:30-4:30
9/25	Grandparents Day
9/26	Think Hope 5K

Greetings from the Office

By: Claire Froman



Wow, that summer really flew by! But it's all good because I'm so excited to welcome back all the cherubs to school, and I'm even more thrilled to greet the new students who are about to become my cherubs. The hallways just aren't the same without their smiles, laughter, endless energy, and yes, their need for constant band-aids (luckily, I'm fully stocked!). I can't wait for another wonderful school year filled with faith, friendship, learning, and wonderful memories to cherish. I'm looking forward to hearing all about the children's summer adventures. See you Wednesday!

The Lord's Pantry

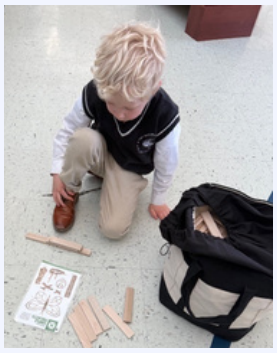
SEPTEMBER TOILETRIES

The Lord's Pantry is one of the ways our Regina Academy community reaches beyond our school to serve those in need.

Throughout the school year, we will invite our families to support the Pantry by donating items that are needed by local families and individuals. Each month, we will highlight a different area of need.

Thank you for helping us put our faith into action through generosity, compassion, and service to others.

FABLAB
Powered by the Bucks IU









FAB LAB IS BACK!

We are thrilled to welcome the Act 89 Bucks IU Mobile Fab Lab back to Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist for another exciting, hands-on learning experience!

Once again, our gym will be transformed into a hub of innovation, creativity, technology, and discovery as students have the opportunity to explore fabrication, robotics, coding, computer science, and more.

Last year's Fab Lab residency was an incredible experience for our students, who designed and created using 3D printers, laser engravers, robots, coding programs, and a variety of hands-on technology. From designing landforms and ecosystems to programming robots and creating their own projects, students across multiple grade levels were fully engaged in learning in exciting new ways.

We can't wait to see what our students will discover and create this year! Stay tuned for photos and updates as the Fab Lab gets underway!

From Montessori Preschool to Classical Catholic Kindergarten

A Beautiful Transition of Growth

Moving from Montessori preschool into our full-day Classical Catholic Kindergarten is an exciting milestone. Because the classroom experience changes in important ways, it is normal for children to need time to adjust.

In preschool, children experience:

- freedom within limits
- self-paced work
- movement throughout the day
- child-chosen activities

Kindergarten introduces:

- greater structure and routine
- teacher-led instruction
- group learning, hands-on centers, and play-based activities
- uniforms
- increased independence and responsibility



For many children, this transition can temporarily feel challenging. This is not a sign that something is wrong, it is a natural part of growth and development.

What Children Are Learning

As children enter kindergarten, they begin developing:

- sustained attention
- listening and following directions
- responsibility for materials and routines
- self-discipline and perseverance
- confidence within a structured environment



Our school recognizes that young children still need movement, encouragement, hands-on learning, and gentle guidance as these skills develop.

The Purpose of Uniforms

Uniforms help foster:

- order and routine
- responsibility
- unity and belonging
- pride in our school community



Resistance to uniforms is often simply part of adjusting to new expectations and greater independence.

How Families Can Help

You can support your child by:

- practicing simple routines at home
- encouraging independence
- maintaining consistent expectations
- reassuring them that new things can feel hard at first
- celebrating small successes along the way

Our Commitment

With structure, consistency, movement, virtue formation, and strong home-school partnership, most children transition beautifully and grow into confident, capable, and resilient learners.
"You can do challenging things."
And we are honored to walk alongside your family during this important stage of growth.

Rising 6th Grade: A Big Step in the Classical Journey

As our 5th graders prepare to enter 6th grade, they are about to experience one of the most important transitions in a classical Catholic education. For the past several years, they have been rooted in the **Grammar Stage**, where learning focuses on facts, memory work, and building strong foundations.

In 6th grade, students begin moving into the **Logic Stage**, where they learn to:

- Analyze rather than simply recall
- Ask deeper questions
- Form and defend opinions
- Think more abstractly
- Work more independently

This shift is developmentally normal, and it can feel challenging at first. Students may experience frustration as assignments become more analytical and require more time and perseverance. This is not a sign of struggle, but a sign of **growth**.

Our teachers will guide students through this transition with patience and clarity, helping them build the executive-function skills they need for middle school and beyond. Parents can support this shift by encouraging routines, praising effort, and reminding children that it's okay for learning to feel harder; it means they are stretching into new abilities.

We are excited to walk with our rising 6th graders as they enter this next stage of intellectual and spiritual formation!

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

GENTLY USED uniforms may be purchased through the Academy's ***Uniform Exchange***. RASJB parent, *Carlye Rojas* graciously runs the ***Exchange***. You can contact her at (919) 624-4378. Methods of Payment: Cash and Venmo.

SPRING/FALL UNIFORMS Spring and fall uniforms - Boys in the Upper School must wear blue golf shirts with logo. White dress shirts may not be worn for spring and fall uniforms. Belts must be worn with all pants or spring shorts.

NEW UNIFORMS - School uniforms can be purchased from Flynn O'Hara School Uniform Company at their retail locations. Flynn & O'Hara can be contacted at 800-441-4122.



Upcoming Events

POLISH AMERICAN Family Festival & Country Fair

at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa



Join us as we embark on a journey to Sainthood!

Every Adventure Needs a Guide!

Regina Academy is excited to return to the Polish Festival for our third year, and we need your help! This year, children and families will begin their Passport on the Journey to Sainthood at Booth 37, searching the festival grounds to discover the saints before returning to claim their prize.

We're looking for parent volunteers to serve in 2-hour shifts throughout the weekend. We especially need:

- Face Painters (No experience needed—we'll provide stencils and everything you need!)
- Parent Ambassadors to welcome families, explain the scavenger hunt, and share the mission of Regina Academy with festival attendees.

Whether you can volunteer for one shift or several, you'll help create a memorable, faith-filled experience for children and families while introducing them to the joy of Regina Academy.

September 12 & 13 | 12 pm to 8 pm
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

Scan the QR code to choose your preferred 2-hour volunteer shift!

VOLUNTEER HERE

ABBEYFEST FAITH • MUSIC • FAMILY

Join us at our booth at AbbeyFest on **Saturday, September 19**, from **12:00 PM to 3:00 PM** for a little fun, a little inspiration, and a whole lot of light!

AbbeyFest is a Catholic faith, family, and music festival held at the **National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown**. It brings together families, teens, and the Catholic community for live Christian music, food, vendors, kids' activities, prayer, worship, and opportunities to celebrate our faith together.

This year, we're inviting AbbeyFest attendees to "Leave a Little Light." Stop by our booth and share one small way you can be a light to someone else. Write your idea on a star and add it to our Shine in the Darkness display. As the day goes on, we'll watch our wall fill with bright ideas, kind actions, and reminders that even the smallest light can make a difference, and that "You don't have to be weird to be holy." - Maria Middleton.

So bring your friends, bring your family, and come add your light to ours! We can't wait to see you at AbbeyFest and SHINE IN THE DARKNESS together!

Saturday, September 19
Booth hours: 12–3 pm | AbbeyFest hours: 12–9 pm
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa

Pennsylvania March for Life



The March for Life Event will be held in Harrisburg, PA, on **September 21, 2026**. This event brings people together to show their solidarity and appreciation for the precious gift of life. Our participation is an opportunity to stand together in support of the dignity and sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death, and to affirm our commitment to protecting and defending this precious gift of life.

As a school community, we strive to live the words of Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium: “An authentic faith, which is never comfortable or completely personal, always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it.”
This is a beautiful way for our young adults to give witness and testimony to the teachings of Christ.

Our journey will depart from school at 9:00 and return at approximately 4:30. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mrs. Froman at Office@rasjb.org so that we can plan accordingly. If you are unable to attend, please keep the efforts of this vital mission in your prayers.



As we begin this new school year, we want to take a moment to offer a very special and heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to prepare our new Montessori Campus for our students. From the many details that needed attention to the many hours of work behind the scenes, so much time, energy, and care went into making this beautiful new space ready to welcome our preschoolers, 7th and 8th graders.



At the heart of this tremendous effort was Mrs. Froman, who spent countless hours each day overseeing the many details, making sure things were moving forward, and doing whatever was needed to make this project a success. While Mrs. Froman gives so much of herself to Regina Academy every year, this summer brought the added challenge of preparing an entirely new campus—and she embraced it with the same dedication, perseverance, and commitment she brings to everything she does for our school.

We are incredibly grateful to all of the workers and volunteers who gave their time and talents this summer to help make the Montessori Campus a reality. Your hard work has created a beautiful and welcoming place where our students can learn, grow, and flourish.

We are so grateful for each and every one of you!

It's Your Move! Join Chess Club Today!

Calling all students in Grades 2–8! Whether your child is just learning the game or already planning several moves ahead, Chess Club is a fun and engaging way to develop strategic thinking, strengthen problem-solving skills, and enjoy friendly competition with classmates.

The club is led by Mrs. Meyer, our first-grade teacher and resident chess enthusiast. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 3:30–4:30 PM, beginning September 23 and continuing through November 11.
We look forward to another great season of learning, strategy, and fun!

Scan to Register

Students will be grouped by grade:

- Grades 2–4
- Grades 5–8

Club Fee: $25 (billed through FACTS)
Have questions?
Email Mrs. Meyer at mmeyer@rasjb.org

You must register by **September 17th** to be part of the club.



Come Grow with Us! Garden Club Is Back!



Do you love nature, exploring the outdoors, and getting your hands dirty? Join Mrs. Elsner, our Nature Teacher, as we continue growing our pollinator flower garden at Regina Academy!

Students will work together to care for our garden by removing invasive species, planting flowers, and creating a welcoming space for the bugs, bees, and butterflies that help our environment thrive.

Scan to Register

Wednesdays from 3:30–4:30 PM
September 16 through October 21
Fee: $25 Billed through FACTS
You must register by **September 11th** to be part of the club.



Grandparents Day

~SEPTEMBER 25TH~
9am to 12 pm

We look forward to welcoming our grandparents and special guests for this beloved Regina tradition! More details and information will be sent home via email in the coming weeks, so please be on the lookout.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Mrs. Erin Eckhard

We are delighted to shine the spotlight on Erin Eckhard, who is beginning a new chapter at Regina Academy this year as a lead Montessori preschool teacher. After serving as a classroom aide last year, Erin is excited to lead her own classroom and bring her experience and love of early childhood education to our Montessori community.

Erin has wanted to be a teacher since she was five years old and began volunteering and working in early childhood classrooms at age 15. Education is the only field she has ever worked in, and she especially loves teaching preschool because everything is new and exciting to young children.

"I get to witness their first discoveries and be part of those early moments in their education, which is incredibly rewarding."



Why Montessori?

With a background in special education, Erin loves that Montessori meets each child where they are and allows them to learn and grow at their own pace. She is also drawn to the beauty and purpose of the Montessori materials and the warm, welcoming atmosphere of the classroom.

"There is something very special about a Montessori classroom feeling like a home, while still being such a rich environment for learning," she says.



That is exactly what Erin hopes to create for her students: a second home where they feel safe, loved, valued, and comfortable being themselves. She believes children need to feel secure and cared for before they are ready to learn and wants every child to know they belong.

Erin also hopes families will recognize how much learning is taking place through Montessori materials. Each material has a specific purpose, allowing children to practice skills, problem-solve, make mistakes, and develop independence through hands-on learning.

The Little Moments

One of Erin's most memorable teaching moments involved a student who was completely nonverbal, other than a few babbling sounds. Near the end of the school year, he walked into the classroom, looked directly at Erin, said *"morning,"* and waved.



"I was in tears," she recalls. After watching him work and grow throughout the year, hearing him use his voice to greet her was an incredibly meaningful milestone.

"It reminded me that some of the smallest moments can be the biggest milestones."

Erin's Catholic faith also shapes the way she approaches her students. She sees each child as a unique gift from God and strives to be a steady, patient, and loving presence in their lives. She wants every child to know that they are important, valued, and loved by the people around them, and by the Lord.

Meet Erin

Outside of school, Erin is a wife and mom to three children, ages 7, 5, and 21 months. She treasures time with her family and tries not to miss the little moments because she knows how quickly children grow. She also enjoys baking, cooking, and gardening, and loves visiting bookstores to find new children's books—she has quite the collection!



We are excited to welcome Erin into her new role and look forward to watching her Montessori classroom become a place of joy, discovery, and growth for our youngest students.

THINK HOPE RUN 2026

Maria Middleton Memorial "Think Hope" Run

The ***third annual*** Maria Middleton Memorial Think Hope Run brings us together again on September 26, 2026, at beautiful Peace Valley Park.

Runners, walkers, families, friends, alumni, and supporters of all ages are invited to take part in this spirited morning outdoors.

Whether you're racing, jogging, or walking, it's a chance to enjoy the day together and be part of a meaningful community event.

Sponsorships are available, please contact Marion Passman: mpasman@rasjb.org or (215) 815-7760.

Registration and sponsorship is open! Visit our website RASJB.org for more details!



REGISTER HERE

SPONSOR HERE
rasjb.org

VOLUNTEER HERE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

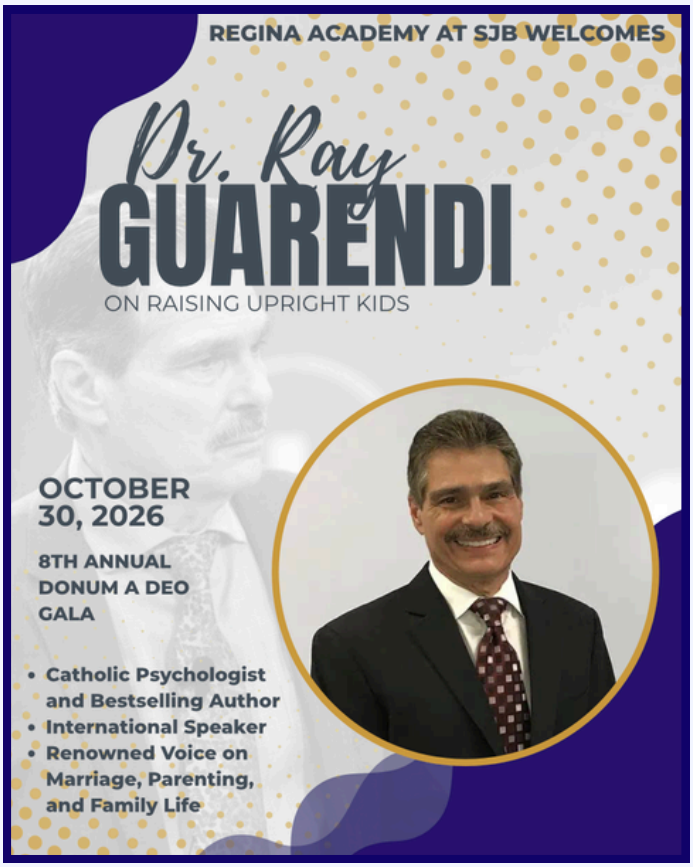
We have been blessed over the past three years with an incredible team of volunteers who have helped make the Maria Middleton THINK HOPE Run such a success. We hope your schedule will allow you to join us again this year!

We are looking for volunteers to assist with event setup, registration, and cleanup. Whether you can give an hour or the entire morning, your time and support make a tremendous difference in creating a welcoming and memorable event for our participants and their families.

Thank you for helping us continue Maria's legacy of hope!

8th ANNUAL GALA





Save the date for Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist's 8th Annual Donum a Deo Gala on Friday, October 30, 2026, at the beautiful Doylestown Country Club.

We are also thrilled to announce that **Dr. Ray Guarendi will be joining us as our guest speaker** for the evening! Our Regina Academy families may recognize Dr. Ray as the author of Raising Upright Kids in an Upside-Down World, a book we proudly give to all of our families.

We invite our families to consider attending this special evening in support of Regina Academy's mission. Support for the Gala may also be given through sponsorships, program ads, auction donations, or by sharing opportunities with local businesses, family, and friends who value Catholic education. As our largest fundraiser of the year, the Gala plays a vital role in advancing the mission of Regina Academy and the formation of our students in faith, virtue, and academic excellence.

For more details on sponsorship opportunities and ticket information, please visit RASJB.org or contact Marion Passman at mpassman@rasjb.org or 215-815-7760.

Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

8th Annual Donum A Deo Gala Raffle

$10,000 GRAND PRIZE

Drawing: Friday, October 30, 2026

$50.00 Per Ticket

Need not be present to win. Winners will be notified via phone & email.

You can't win if you don't play!
Snag your ticket for a shot at $10,000! Contact Marion Passman at mpassman@rasjb.org

REGINA ACADEMY at ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Domine ut videam

Please join us for

Mugs and Moms!

Thursday, September 17

8:45 am - 9:45 am



The Anxious Generation

The Anxious Generation will be our first topic, based on the book by Jonathan Haidt. No prior reading is necessary—just an interest in discussing how transitioning from a play-based childhood to a phone-based childhood has disrupted the social and neurological development of today's youth, which could be to blame for the steep rise in adolescent depression, anxiety, and self-harm.

Think Hope™



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Maria Middleton

Sixth Anniversary Mass

PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT

The Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez

Archbishop of Philadelphia

Monday, October 5, 2026

5:00 PM

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa

654 Ferry Rd., Doylestown, Pennsylvania

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Please join us in prayer and remembrance

Introducing our new Playgroup at the Regina Academy!

Playgroup



Held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM, beginning September 9th

A simple time to socialize with like-minded moms while the next generation of RASJB students gets to know one another.

RASJB MEN'S GROUP

MEATFEST 2026

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 10
3-7 PM

Register Here

RSVP BY 10/3/26

EXPERIENCE THE BROTHERHOOD
OPEN TO ALL MEN WHO SUPPORT RASJB!!

JOIN US FOR A VARIETY OF FAVORITE MEATS PREPARED IN EVERY WAY YOU CAN IMAGINE—SMOKED, GRILLED, AND MORE—ALONGSIDE ALL THE SIDES THAT EVERY MAN LOVES.

ENJOY A CLASSIC TAILGATE ATMOSPHERE, COMPLETE WITH A LINEUP OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST GAMES PLAYING THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

REFERRAL PROGRAM

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FAMILIES WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR REFERRAL PROGRAM!

Last year, we gave out over $3,500 to families through our referral program, and we're excited to continue rewarding our amazing community!

*Know a family who would be a great fit for our school? Refer them to us and receive **$500** toward tuition once they enroll!*

How It Works

1. *Refer a family to our school.*
2. *After they enroll, you receive $500 toward tuition.*

Help our community grow — and get rewarded for it!







REGINA ACADEMY at ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

For more information, contact Marion Passman:
mpassman@rasjb.org or 215-815-7760

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST NEWS

Regina Academy *and* St. John the Baptist

Working together...



Pay Tuition While You Shop — With RaiseRight!

Did you know you can help pay your Regina Academy tuition just by doing your everyday shopping — including back-to-school items, travel, dining out, and even home improvement purchases?

It's possible with **RaiseRight**!

RaiseRight allows you to purchase gift cards from hundreds of popular retailers, and a percentage of each purchase goes directly toward your tuition at the Academy. At the same time, a matching percentage benefits St. John the Baptist Parish, all at no extra cost to you.

Many retailers even offer bonus earnings during seasonal promotions, helping you accumulate even more credit toward tuition or other Catholic causes. When you're ready, you can request a check from your RaiseRight account through the parish office to apply to tuition or donate.

How to Participate:

- Shop online using eGift cards for instant use
- Or order physical gift cards for a small fee (home delivery or parish pickup available)
- Access your account anytime to track earnings and request disbursements

You'll be surprised how quickly it adds up!

Visit www.RaiseRight.com to see the full list of participating merchants and to learn how the program works. Simply scan the QR code below to get started.

Questions?
Contact Christine Wimpenny at 516-978-7893 (call or text).

Thank you for supporting our Academy and parish community!

RaiseRight™

PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, Sept 20th
12 to 3
All are welcome!

It would be greatly appreciated If you would sign up on the sheet in the Narthex so that we can prepare for the right amount of guests.

Please contact Mary 215-896-4034 or wmckmiller@verizon.net for more Information.
Donations appreciated.



SAVE THE DATE

Knights of Columbus Council 4545

PENNY PARTY

Wednesday
October 7, 2026
RASJB Gymnasium