



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of Saint Joseph Seminary

January, 2026

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will all be home for our Christmas vacation. After four months at the seminary it will be nice to be home with our families again for slightly more than two weeks. Soon, however, we will all be back to tackle new challenges.

The past month, as usual, has been packed with events. On the day after Thanksgiving we enjoyed a great fireworks show over the lake in Coeur d'Alene. The next day we went ice skating. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception we left after the early Mass for our first ski trip. Lift tickets were free for youth, so we took advantage of that offer.

The seniors put on a fundraising dinner for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (actually on the following day), which was a great success. We started with a candlelight Rosary in the church and then went down to the parish hall for dinner. The seniors would especially like to thank Father Philip (who came from the Mount to take charge of the dinner) and the men who played and sang hymns in honor of Our Lady. The following day was the annual school program, for which we sang several Christmas songs.

Now we look forward to the various upcoming events, including

our gift exchange for the Epiphany and the visit of His Excellency and CMRI priests to our seminary in mid-January. Before the end of the month we will start our second semester of classes. We are also hoping for more snow, because so far, it has been a very mild winter with plenty of rain. Finally, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families!

January Calendar

- 5 – Classes resume
- 6 – Feast of the Epiphany; special observances
- 21 – Annual visit of Bishop and Priests to the seminary
- 23 – Final day of the 2nd Quarter
- 26 – Third Quarter begins



We had a nice gathering for our Thanksgiving dinner.

Coming and Going

by Diego Diaz, gr. 9

Christmas! One of the most beautiful times of the year! Christmas! The day when the rejoicing on earth matches that of heaven. Christmas! When we get to see our loving families. Ok, ok, you get the point. This month

was jam-packed with many different experiences, sacrifices (like my brother), and very much happiness. Going to Schweitzer ski resort was one of these awesome experiences which we all very much enjoyed. Some of us were not good at skiing at first, but with enough willpower and fear of falling over, we

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eventually got the hang of it and eventually could go down a blue. A blue, yep, a blue.

I think this issue will be going out to you, dear reader, a little bit before Christmas. What comes after Christmas? You know, it's kind of sad; in this world, Christmas is celebrated before it comes, and everyone stops celebrating after the twenty-fifth. For example, Walmart starts setting up for Christmas the day of Halloween and puts everything away on the day after Christmas! How crazy is that? As you know, after Christmas comes New Year's, the Circumcision, and Epiphany. In the US you go to the mall and see Santa, sit on his lap and all that stuff. In Mexico, you go to the mall, and you find the three wise men! Quite a difference, right? I hope you don't mind me saying this, but I love Santa.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end (not really) but coming back to the seminary is awesome! Well, kind of, except for the fact that we have homework! But besides that, this place is awesome. Also, you have duties everywhere you go, so I can't really complain. Getting into the groove of things will either go smoothly or not, but that doesn't matter; we still have a gym and a soccer ball, and that's all that matters. I wonder how the second semester will go; will it be fun, tiring, awesome, or none of the above? Hopefully awesome! Well, I must say goodbye for now. I hope all of you have a very blessed Christmas season and may God give you more graces during this beautiful season. Divine Infant Jesus, come down into our hearts!

The Holy Name of Jesus, the Tower of the Church

by Bryson Tucker, gr. 12

The Holy Name of Jesus has been venerated since the very first days of Christianity. St. Paul writes in his epistle to the Philippians: "In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth" (2:10). In the book of Proverbs it is written, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower" (18:10). This tower isn't an ordinary tower; it is the most powerful one in all of heaven and earth.



One of the religious brothers dressed up as St. Nicholas. Can you guess who?

This tower is the means of many miracles, the foundation of the Church, the way to heaven, and the refuge from evil. St. Peter Chrysologus wrote: "This is the Name which gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, agility to the lame, speech to the mute, and life to the dead. The power of this Name forced the mastery of the devil entirely from the bodies of the possessed." The Holy Name of Jesus is the basis of the Church and in which all her children profess their Faith. In a military sense, towers are created for better defense against enemies. The tower of the Church, too, is given for defense. In living by the Holy Name of Jesus, we can better spot attackers, temptations, and easily be rid of them. While protected by this tower, we can better use our weapons, such as prayer, penance, and virtue, to more effectively attack our enemies—Satan and the world. This powerful tower will never be destroyed.

Sadly, many people today, by their sins of blasphemy against the Holy Name of Jesus, not only turn away from this tower, but also seek to harm and destroy it. The ever-ready Catholics, however, take up the job at once to repair it by their prayers in reparation for these blasphemies. These prayers are the brick and mortar that fix the tower, healing the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We should not be among the people of the world blaspheming the Name of Jesus, but among the Catholics always ready to pray for reparation.

We should always seek this tower. It is our defense against Satan's army. By this tower, we will enter Eternal Happiness.



The Brothers butchered our sheep—more meat for the freezer!

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We are most grateful to a generous benefactor who allows us to use his ice rink from time to time.



Our dog Felix likes to lie by the warm wood stove.



Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus takes place every First Friday



Our first ski trip was to Schweitzer Mountain on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.



Several men performed songs in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the dinner in her honor.



We had a candlelight Rosary in the church in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Most Holy Name of Jesus, Save Us!

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Since this month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, we should start now to have a better devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. One custom we have here at the seminary is to bow our heads whenever we hear the names of Jesus and Mary. I advise all to do this, especially during this month of the Holy Name. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we love you; save souls.

Winter Pastimes

by Henry Harris, gr. 12

We play many sports here at the seminary. Once the snow comes, however, it stops us from playing some of our favorite ones, such as football and soccer. Winter, however, brings various sports that we all enjoy. Once the snow hits the ground, we are all ready to sled no matter how much there is. We are lucky to live on a mountain where there are many different places to sled; we especially enjoy building jumps. Since we don't have many sleds, we improvise and use canoes. We have spent countless hours making jumps and sledging during the winter but what is even more fun is our annual ski trip.

During January we always have a ski trip thanks to your support at our Saint Joseph breakfast in November. This trip is one of the highlights of the year. We look forward to the first snow fall because even if there isn't that much you can still have snowball fights. These snowball fights can get very competitive and last for a couple hours. We can even have a little snowball battle between classes during the school day.

Snow is fun and we all love it, but there is always a catch: shoveling. Since we live at the seminary, we are the 24/7 snow removal service for the church.

Even with shoveling, winter is still awesome and definitely my favorite season. Thank-you for all your support of our Seminary and thank-you for reading. May God bless you.

Our Spiritual Family

While the seminarians are home with their families, we religious enjoy the time with our spiritual family. Most of the year we sacrifice much of the common life, as we open our home to the seminarians. This does not mean that I consider the seminarians a sort of burden, preventing us from enjoying the common family spirit that prevails in religious houses—far from it! These young men are truly edifying Catholic young men—but still, they are not religious (at least not yet).

During the Christmas vacation, with a more relaxed schedule and time for recreation, we take full advantage to enjoy our time together. A spiritual family is a great blessing. Here at Saint Joseph Seminary we have seven religious in residence—three priests and four religious brothers. We also have our neighboring religious at Mount Saint Michael. Just as you enjoy visiting with your relatives and loved ones, so



The members of our religious community of priests and brothers at the "City of Mary."

we enjoy our time together. When one becomes a religious he sacrifices his natural family but gains another, a spiritual family.

I pray that you will enjoy this time of year with your families. At the same time, pray that God will bless your family with vocations, for there is no greater blessing to a family than that one or more of its members be called to the priesthood and/or the religious life. Be assured that I will remember you and your families in the Masses of the Christmas season, and I pray that God will bless you abundantly in this New Year. Thank you for supporting our seminary.

- Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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