

**Cindy Protega**  
**First Grade**

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I love SJE... because SJE is more than a school; it is a FAMILY bound together by faith. I am thankful that I am able to witness true Catholic faith, beliefs and actions through my students. A constant reminder of how blessed I am to be a part of such a wonderful family. SJE is a warm, welcoming school that makes all who enter want to be a part of this great place!

We go above and beyond... In just my first year here at SJE, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Veteran's Day committee and the Advent committee. My family and I are also a part of the annual parish festival.

Learning is Fun... This year I teach Science to both fourth grade classes, which includes many science experiments such as making volcanos erupt, predicting which pumpkins have more seeds, cleaning up an oil spill, and many other experiments. Seeing the students engaged in hands-on learning, and witnessing the knowledge they take from these experiments brings me great joy. I have also implemented flashlight reading with my students. This fun and exciting activity makes the kids eager to read. It involves bringing a flashlight to school, having a good book to read, and turning off the lights!!