

December 12, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; SJCS Christmas Program; Christmas Break; Staff Openings; 529 Plans; Run with the Saints; Divine Auction; SJCS Student Council Fundraiser for Greg's Groceries; Advent Prayer Programs; New Staff Member; Free Hand Wipes; and Covid Children's Vaccinations.

Thoughts for the week: Forgive over and over and over? How do we understand this gospel call to discipleship, which seems so difficult? How is it even possible to live this way? The saints show us. One striking fact about St. Patrick is something simple yet powerful: He went back. After a boyhood of enslavement by the Celts, after escaping across the channel to safety and secure life of study and ministry, he heard God's call, and he returned—to serve the very people who had held him captive. He embodied Jesus' call to forgiveness, and he challenges us to follow. —Excerpted from *2020: A Book of Grace-Filled Days* by Amy Welborn

SJCS Christmas Program: The school will host our Christmas program on Thursday, December 16th. This year due to a change in the max capacity of the gym we will be hosting two shows. The first show will be from 6:00-6:45 and will feature 4K; 1st; 3rd; and 5th grades as well as the Bel Canto choir. The 2nd show will be 7:15-8:00 and will feature 5K; 2nd; 4th and 6th. We ask that your child be dropped off 30 minutes before the start of their show and picked up immediately following their show from their homerooms. Families who have students in both shows are asked to keep their children who are not performing with them in the audience.

All students are asked to wear dress uniforms to the program. We will have a normal uniform day on Friday, December 17th.

All individuals in the audience will be asked to wear a mask. Students will enter the stage with their masks on and will remove their masks to perform and then will put their masks back on to exit the stage.

We look forward to having the community together for the Christmas program. Please contact Mrs. Cynthia Fruth Cfruth@stjosdevine.com with questions.

Christmas Break: The school will dismiss Friday, December 17th at 12noon for Christmas Break. There is no Extended Care offered. The school will be closed from 12noon December 17th through Monday, January 3rd. Classes will resume at 8 am on Tuesday, January 4th.

Staff Openings: We are sad to announce that after 12 years as the Business Manager, Mrs. Nancy Sexton will be leaving Saint Joseph to take the same position at Cardinal Newman. We will miss her, and we wish her the very best as she starts a new and exciting chapter in her life.

The school has begun the search for a new Business Manager. If you know of any qualified candidates, please refer them to the school office.

529 Plans: A 529 plan is a savings plan that encourages education savings for qualified education expenses: college, vocational, or other post-secondary learning. South Carolina 529 plans can be used to pay tuition at K-12 private schools up to \$10,000 annually.

Funds can be deposited and then withdrawn for qualified school tuition after 60 days. Start planning now and you could pay March's tuition with your 529 account.

Unlike a traditional savings account or bank account, your money grows tax-deferred in a 529 account and qualified distributions are federal tax and state tax-free. **South Carolina has two state plans to choose from: the Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan and the Future Scholar 529 Advisor Plan.**

You can find more information about both college savings programs at www.futurescholar.com or by consulting a financial advisor. South Carolina taxpayers can claim a tax deduction on the full amount of their 529 plan contribution. And for many, a 529 plan can be used to transfer wealth. Contributing to a 529 plan lets grandparents or other contributors reduce the size of their taxable estate while helping them fund a grandchild's or family member's education. It's even possible to make five years' worth of contributions in a single year, up to \$75,000 (or \$150,000 for married couples) and still get the gift tax exclusion.

Run with the Saints: With our Christmas season fast approaching now is a great time to sign up for our 7th Annual Run with the Saints 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, January 29th! This event is a Midlands favorite and one of SJCS largest fundraisers. Please sign up at <https://www.strictlyrunning.com/gpuilreg-8l.asp?uRaceId=3719> and remember to include your \$5 coupon code, SAINT5. Sign up early so you can guarantee one of our coveted long-sleeve race shirts!

Divine Auction: It's BACK! Mark your calendars for the 2022 Divine Auction...Friday, February 4th at Carolina Park! There will be Live & Silent Auction Items, food, drinks & entertainment! Are you interested in being a Host Family for the event? Please see [this flyer](#) for more information. You may also check out the ticket section of the auction website <https://Divine22.givesmart.com>

SJCS Student Council Fundraiser for Greg's Groceries: Student Council is sponsoring a Chick-fil-A biscuit sale. Orders are due tomorrow **Monday, December 13th**, and biscuits will be delivered on **Wednesday, December 15th**. All proceeds will be donated to Greg's Groceries. Save time in the morning by purchasing chicken biscuit(s) for breakfast. Sandwiches will be hot and ready and delivered to classrooms at 7:30. You must pre-order there will be no biscuits sold on Wednesday. **The cost is \$4 per biscuit.** Please complete and return one order form per student with payment to your teacher or school office **no later than Monday,**

December 13th. Checks should be made payable to Saint Joseph Catholic School. See attached flyer. The flyer will also be in tomorrow's Monday Folder.

Advent Prayer Programs: The school will host two prayer programs during this holy season. The first is a special Advent gathering of Mary's Children. This group will meet each day the school is in session from 7:25-7:45 am during the advent season. Students will gather each morning in the cafeteria to pray the rosary and prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus.

The second advent program will be the blessing and lighting of the school Advent wreath. Advent wreath services will take place at 8a each Tuesday and Wednesday the school is in session during Advent. Parents and parishioners are welcome to join us for any of these prayer programs.

New Staff Member: We are excited to welcome Mrs. Amanda Burckhard 5k instructional assistant. She has 12 years of childcare experience. She has 3 children John, Maddie, & Wyatt. She enjoys cooking, gardening, & crafting in her spare time.

Free Hand Wipes: We have been gifted 25 pallets of Wet Ones antibacterial hand wipes and they are free to anyone who can use some. If you or any organization you are connected with could use any amount, please let the front office know and we will gladly help you load up your vehicle with as many as you can use. They make great Christmas gifts!

Covid Children's Vaccinations: The decision to give the Covid vaccination is a parental choice. If you decide to vaccinate your child, please share that information with our School Nurse, Jessica Eadon Jeadon@stjosdevine.com. The school will be tracking those who are vaccinated for the purpose of quarantining. Students who are fully vaccinated or have tested positive for COVID in the past 90 days and do not have symptoms will not be required to quarantine. To date, we have 124 students who have either started and or completed the vaccination process. That is 46% of our student population is either fully vaccinated or started the process.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Blessed are we". Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
Principal
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