

December 3, 2022

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Early Dismissal; Spirit Night; Christmas Store; Sister Maria; Cardinal Newman Performing Arts; Uniform Outerwear; Advent Prayer Programs; Ecumenical Prayer Service; Run with the Saints; and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: The four weeks of Advent are a slow wait: one candle this week, the empty crib. With Mary and Joseph, we wait for Christ. The candles light the way for them – and us, one each week of Advent.

Christmas should come quickly – the message of the ads. We could be excused for thinking it is nearly over. The Christmas parties are well underway. Some dinners for the elderly have been held already. The carols have been playing for weeks now.

The best waiting, like waiting for birth, is slow. Parents wonder about their child – who will he/she be like? The mother needs support and love; the children look forward to another baby; grandparents wait in pride. Even when the family situation is limited, we wait in joy and hope for the childlike Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and all the bible parents who waited, often for many years.

How is my faith this year from last year? And what would I be asking for? Would I promise anything to help me wait actively for Jesus – Mass more often than Sunday, the Angelus every day, to read the gospel each day, to be kinder and more just, care for the poor and needy at home or away. Let my Advent bring me closer to God and affect the lives of those close to me for the best. If we wait in faith and hope, then everything, even the carols, are sung too early, and the celebrations too early can remind us of the God who is coming soon in Jesus Christ, to be born of Mary. Mary, may I wait with you in joy, patience, and hope.

Early Dismissal: The school will dismiss tomorrow, Monday, December 5th at 2 pm. Extended Care will be open.

Spirit Night: PTO will host a Moe's night on Tuesday, December 6th. Meals must be pre-ordered using the link below. Your premade Taco Kits (feeds 4-6) for \$39.99, with ground beef, chicken, and FAMOUS QUESO, can be picked up from the front of school starting at 5pm on December 6th. Orders must be placed by Monday, December 5 at 4:00 pm. Feed the family and help fund our school! Click the link to pre-order your kit: <https://form.jotform.com/223133554331143>

Christmas Store: The SJCS Christmas Store will be open December 5th- 7th. The Christmas Store is a St. Joseph tradition and offers students the opportunity to purchase small gifts for family and friends. Items in the store range from \$1.00 to \$10.00. We will have the store in the cafeteria again this year. Official store hours will be 8:30-2:00 M-T. Wednesday shopping will only be open from 11:00-1:30. Volunteers are needed to help children shop and wrap gifts. Please contact Kaley Wilson at kaleywilson@rocketmail.com

Please look for the Christmas Store form in tomorrow's Monday folder - please complete it. Return the form and money to your child's teacher by Monday, December 5th.

Sister Maria: Sister Maria, a long-time beloved Saint Joe's teacher, passed away on Friday, November 25th. The Parish will host a Memorial Mass on Saturday, Dec. 10th at 10 a.m. What a well-lived life for such a faithful servant! May God rest her soul.

Cardinal Newman Performing Arts: The **Cardinal Newman Music Department** has two holiday concerts coming up! Today, Sunday, December 4th, come see the two choral ensembles, the Cardinal Chorale and the Junior High Chamber Singers, at 7:00 pm here at Saint Joseph Church. On Tuesday, December 13th, the Band and Orchestra will give a concert at 7:00 pm at the Cardinal Newman Anna Tronco Williams Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and FREE for Cardinal Newman and Saint Joseph students. Come get in the holiday spirit with some beautiful music! Get tickets here. <http://ow.ly/Vk8E50LRf4n>

The **Cardinal Newman Drama Club** will present Willy Wonka next weekend: **December 9** at 8pm, **December 10** at 2pm and 8pm, and **December 11** at 2pm in the Anna Tronco Williams Performing Arts Center. General admission tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased using this link: <https://www.ticketsource.us/Cardinal-Newman-School>.

Uniform Outerwear: As the weather gets cooler, just a reminder that all uniform pants must be from Lands' End. In addition, all navy sweatshirts and navy full or half zipper fleece must have the Saint Joseph embroidery. Navy V-neck sweater vest, V-neck sweater, navy zipper cardigan, or navy button cardigan with or without Saint Joseph embroidery may be worn in the classroom. No hooded sweaters, hooded sweatshirts, or sweatshirts other than Cardinal Newman may be worn in class. Winter coats and outerwear not listed above may be worn to school and during recess but cannot be worn in the classrooms during the day or at Mass.

Advent Prayer Programs: The school will continue to 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 during Advent from 7:25-7:45 am. Students will gather each morning in the cafeteria to pray the rosary and prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus. Advent wreath services will continue at 8a each Tuesday and Thursday on which the school is in session during Advent. Parents and parishioners are welcome to join us for any of these prayer programs.

Ecumenical Prayer Service: Each year, we enjoy a celebration with ministers, pastors, and rabbis from the churches and synagogues that our students attend. We have not been able to meet in person for several years (we shared video messages with our students), but we are hoping to host an in-person prayer service in January once again. This is an excellent opportunity to bring together our school family and faith. If your family attends a place of worship other than St. Joseph Church, please complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/sJT6QT9cqy> so that we can invite your minister, pastor, or rabbi to be part of our service.

Run with the Saints: Mark your calendars for the 8th annual Run with the Saints (RWTS) 5K and 1-mile Fun Run. The races will take place on Saturday, January 28th. This event is a Midlands favorite and one of SJCS's largest fundraisers. Please sign up at <https://www.strictlyrunning.com/gpscrlnReg-9f.asp> and remember to include your \$5 coupon code, SAINT5. All 5K runners will receive a race t-shirt if they register before Friday, January 6th. Runners who register after January 6th are not guaranteed a race t-shirt. These t-shirts are a favorite of all of our students and families! This year we are planning to offer a prize for the class with the highest student participation (more details to come)! Be on the lookout for a flyer that will be coming home in Monday folders on December 12th.

Important Upcoming Dates: Below are some important events to be aware of in the coming days:

December 5	2:00 Dismissal
December 5,6,7	Christmas Store
December 6	Spirit Night- Moe's
December 7	Grandparent Dress Down Day Number 3
December 8	Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass-9am

December 14
December 16

SJCS Christmas program - 6:30pm
12 Noon Dismissal-Christmas Break - No Extended Care

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us – *"Serve one another with the gifts you have received."*

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
Principal
dyarnall@stjosdevine.com