

November 29, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; IGiveCatholic; PTO Spirit Night; Second Quarter Service Project; Advent Prayer Programs; SJCS Saint Socks; Christmas Shop; Covid Children's Vaccinations; and SJCS Christmas Program.

Thoughts for the week: Please. Thank you. I am sorry. I love you. Words have great power in our lives. They have the power to transform us if we are open to it. In the celebration of Mass, we encounter the Word of God. The readings from Scripture, the homily, the prayers of the assembly, and the words of consecration all unite in an act of worship and praise. The great challenge is that, in order for words to have transformative power, they need to be heard and acted upon as well. We need to listen, hear, and respond.

IGiveCatholic: Mark your calendars! Saint Joseph Catholic School will be participating in the **#iGiveCatholic 24-hour Giving Day** tomorrow, **Tuesday, November 30, 2021** #iGiveCatholic, now in its 7th year, is a Catholic crowdfunding event that offers an *excellent* opportunity for the Catholic Community to come together to give thanks, give back, and give Catholic!

All monies raised during this event will go to our Saints Fund. The Saints Fund is our annual fund, an ongoing campaign that allows families, grandparents, faculty, alumni, friends, and parishioners the opportunity to financially assist in the school's operational well-being. Each year, the school applies the Saints Fund monies to the area(s) of greatest need within Saint Joseph Catholic School. This year, we are hoping to raise enough to begin a major overhaul of our playground equipment. The minimum donation is \$20, and every gift helps. Please make plans to go to <https://charleston.igivecatholic.org/organizations/st-joseph-catholic-school-charleston> on November 30th to support our saints on #iGiveCatholic day! There are several prizes that our school can win with your participation.

PTO Spirit Night: On Thursday, December 2nd, the PTO is sponsoring a school spirit night at Marco's Pizza on Rosewood Drive. If you order pizza any time between 3:00 and 8:00 pm, please be sure to mention Saint Joseph so we can receive a portion of the purchase. Let Marco's take care of dinner on Thursday while you support our school!

Second Quarter Service Project: For our 2nd quarter service project, we will be collecting food for Greg's Groceries, an initiative started by Columbia, SC non-profit Serve & Connect. In 2015, Serve & Connect was founded by 1st grader Sal Alia's mom, Kassy Alia Ray, to honor Sal's dad, Greg Alia, a Forest Acres Police Officer and graduate of SJCS who was killed in the line of duty. Serve & Connect honors Greg's legacy by working tirelessly and passionately at the intersection of community policing and community engagement.

The list below are items most needed to help fill a box of Greg's Groceries. Every item donated will go to filling a box of Greg's Groceries and helping a family in need: Boxed macaroni &

cheese, Spaghettios, instant mashed potatoes (individual packets) canned vegetables, canned soup, canned beans, and canned fruit.

The deadline to donate food for Greg's Groceries has been extended to next Friday, December 10th.

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 and will begin tomorrow, Tuesday, November 30th. This group will meet each day the school is in session 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.

Also starting tomorrow, Tuesday, November 30th at 8:00a all students will assemble in the gym for the blessing and lighting of the school Advent wreath. Advent wreath services will continue at 8a each Tuesday and Thursday the school is in session during Advent. Parents and parishioners are welcome to join us for any of these prayer programs.

SJCS Saint Socks: Our PTO is hosting a new fundraiser this year offering Saint Joseph's spirit socks. Each pair is \$15, and the socks will be allowed to be worn with students' daily uniforms and during basketball games. Pre-order is now open using the link below and will be available through December 5th. Help support our school with Saints Socks!

<https://stjosephschoolsocks.itemorder.com/>

Christmas Shop: The SJCS Christmas Shop will be open December 6-8th. The Christmas Shop is a St. Joseph tradition and offers students the opportunity to purchase small gifts for family and friends. Items in the shop range from \$.50 to \$10. A form is in today's Monday folder - please complete it and fill out a gift tag to attach to each gift. Return form, money, and tags to your child's teacher by Monday, December 6th. We will have the shop in the cafeteria again this year. However, for 2nd- 6th grade, shopping will go back to taking place during lunch and recess. The 4K-1st grade classes will sign up for a designated time slot the first two days of the store. Official store hours will be 8:30-2 M-T. Wednesday shopping will only be open from 11-1:30.

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.

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

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
dyarnall@stjosdevine.com