

November 20, 2022

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Thanksgiving Holidays; Saints Fund; SJCS Annual Report; Advent Prayer Programs; Christmas Store; Bel Canto; Extended Care; and Important Upcoming Dates.

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. This week take time to talk with your children about the importance of listening, hearing, and responding to the Word of God.

Thanksgiving Holidays: The school will dismiss for Thanksgiving Break at 12 noon on Tuesday, November 22nd. There will be no Extended Care offered Tuesday – Friday, November 22nd-25th. Classes will resume on Monday, November 28th at 8:00 am.

Saints Fund: The Saints Fund is our annual fund, an ongoing campaign that allows families, grandparents, faculty, alumni, friends, and parishioners the opportunity to assist financially 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. There are two main ways to contribute to the Saints fund

1. Midlands Gives - May of 2023
2. Saints Fund direct contribution - Year-long (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

All three ways of giving support the great things that are happening at SJCS!

SJCS Annual Report: Several weeks ago, you should have received the 2021-2022 Annual Report in the mail. We are so grateful to the many parents who helped us raise a record amount for our Saints Fund. Please use the link to view and read the full report. [Annual Report 2021-2022](#)

Advent Prayer Programs: The first Sunday of Advent is next Sunday, November 27. 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 Monday, November 28th. 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.

Starting on Tuesday, November 29th 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.

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

A form will go home in tomorrow's Monday folder - please complete it. Return the form, and money to your child's teacher by Monday, December 5th.

Bel Canto: We congratulate our members of the Bel Canto Choir for 2022-2023:

3rd Grade: Margaret Barron, Mary Brooks Bowers, Luciana Eager, Charlie Maloney, Julie Ryan

4th Grade: Luciana Bassante, Charlotte Bennett, Addison Eadon, Margaret Horne, Ferne Mellen, Harper Reardon, Allison Oliver, Justin Simpson, Joshua Verdugo, Emma Jeanne Von Plinsky,

Claire Wise

5th Grade: Mills Coco, Sarah DeJesus

6th Grade: Adrian Branham, Crayton Stublely, Pressly Toler

Extended Care: If questions arise about Extended Care, please contact Mr. Chapman Brown at cbrown@stjosdevine.com. For billing questions, please contact Mrs. Brenda Jones at Bjones@stjosdevine.com

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

November 22	12 Noon Dismissal – Thanksgiving Break – No Extended Care
November 28	Classes resume
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	SJCS Christmas program - 6:30pm
December 16	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

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