

November 21, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Drama Club Performance; Thanksgiving Holidays; Second Quarter Service Project; Weekly Academic Highlight; IGiveCatholic; SJCS Annual Report; SJCS Saint Socks; Staff Openings; Covid Children's Vaccinations; SJCS Christmas Program; and Cardinal Cadence Crew Poinsettia Sale.

Thoughts for the week: This week's thoughts for the week come from Fr. Will Frei's homily last weekend November 13th and 14th. As we near the start of the Advent season his words ring strong and I wanted to share a small excerpt of his sermon.

Creative calculation will not bring us salvation – *vigilant love* will. Jesus warns us to *be watchful, to be alert* because He wants us to prepare the way for His coming and He knows that, still, there are so many blocks in the way of His becoming all in all for us. And so how do we prepare? One saint gives eight practical steps to help us prepare for the Lord's coming:

- 1) Give Jesus whatever He takes and take from Him whatever He gives with a big smile.
- 2) Be a cause of joy to others.
- 3) Speak well of everybody.
- 4) Smile at all you meet.
- 5) Deliberately make three acts of loving-kindness every day.
- 6) Confess any sin against charity.
- 7) If you offend anyone, ask forgiveness before going to bed.
- 8) Read about, meditate on, and speak of Christ's love.

Be watchful. Be alert. By practicing one or more of these steps, may the coming of Jesus in glory be for us a time of peace and joy.

Drama Club Performance: The schools' Drama Club will perform Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, tomorrow, Monday, November 22nd at 6:30pm. The performance will take place in the school cafeteria. The program is open to parents and guests.

Thanksgiving Holidays: The school will dismiss for Thanksgiving Break at 12Noon on Tuesday, November 23rd. Extended care is *not* available. Classes will resume on Monday, November 29th at 8:00am.

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 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.

Please see the flyer that will be in your child's Monday folder for complete information about the project.

Weekly Academic Highlight: This week I was in a Kindergarten classroom and watched as the students learned about the numbers 10-20; the “rule breakers” and the “mean teens” The students made “chocolate chip cookies” and each cookie had to have the correct number of chips. Students had to use analytical skills to add, subtract, and recognize the correct numbers of chips in each of their cookies. After they finished all their cookies, they had a sweet treat and got to eat the chocolate chips they were using to count and make their cookies. Wonderful things are happening daily in the classrooms of Saint Joseph Catholic Schools!

IGiveCatholic: Mark your calendars! Saint Joseph Catholic School will be participating in the **#iGiveCatholic 24-hour Giving Day on 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! You may also make your donation using the same link during the Advance Giving period from November 15- November 29th.

SJCS Annual Report: We are excited to share our 2020-2021 Annual Report. We are so grateful to the many parents who helped us raise a record amount for our Saints Fund. Please see the attached PDF to read the full report.

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/>

Staff Openings: The school is looking for a 5K Instructional Assistant. If you know of any qualified candidates, please refer them to the school office.

The school is also searching for a shadow for a special needs student. Please contact the school office if you know of any qualified candidates.

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.

Cardinal Cadence Crew Poinsettia Sale: You still have time to order beautiful poinsettias to support beautiful music at Cardinal Newman. Did you know that many of the Saint Joseph Schola Cantorum choir members are current CN students, alums of the program, or CN faculty members? CN musicians are very active at Saint Joseph Church and they would appreciate your support! The deadline to order has been extended to Monday, November 22nd. You may use this link to order online <https://www.cnhs.org/apps/form/form.CARNWS.sMcYaxG.1tf>. We have received many reports of the online order not working for some people. If that is the case for you, you can just print the screen after you fill in the online order form and send it with a check to Cardinal Newman or Mrs. Seezen in the office by Monday.

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