

January 9, 2022

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

**Items in this newsletter:** Thoughts for the week; Run with the Saints; Divine Auction; Associate Administrator- Karen Tucker; Bookkeeper; 2022-2023 Re-enrollment; 529 Plans; Spread the Word – Open House Events; MAP testing; Christmas Program Photos; and Ecumenical Prayer Service.

**Thoughts for the week:** In the Gentile Magi, the divisions of culture, religions, and nation are reconciled because, as we respond with the antiphon to Psalm 72, “*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*” If we believe that every nation every religion has some gift to offer God, can we dare refuse to accept the gifts that strangers bring? A multicultural society and church are witnesses to the inclusiveness that Christ asks of us. It is often the strangers and outsiders who reveal to us how and what we should be seeking. – Living Liturgy.

**Run with the Saints:** With the new year underway, 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's largest fundraisers. Please sign up at <https://www.strictlyrunning.com/gpuilreg-8l.asp?uRaceId=3719> and remember to include your \$5 coupon code, SAINT5. Registration after January 7<sup>th</sup> is not guaranteed a race shirt. Please see [this flyer](#) for additional information.

**Divine Auction:** The 2022 Divine Auction is right around the corner! Want to help...Here are a few ways to get involved: Host Families, Parties with a Purpose, Gift Cards, and Auction Items. Please check out our auction website at <https://Divine22.givesmart.com> or [this flyer](#) for more information. Please reach out to Margaret Asay ([margekd@aol.com](mailto:margekd@aol.com)) with any questions or for more information. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Auction...Friday, February 4th at Carolina Park!

**Associate Administrator Karen Tucker:** With the departure of Nancy Sexton for her new position at Cardinal Newman, we have had the opportunity to move some administrative responsibilities to staff within our building. I am excited to announce that Karen Tucker has agreed to join me in the administrative team as an Associate Administrator. Mrs. Tucker has a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Elementary Education from the University of South Carolina and 20 years of experience as an educator. She is currently enrolled in the Diocese of Charleston’s Catholic School Leadership Program. She will be responsible for many tasks including management of applications and enrollment in FACTS Family Management; Diocesan reporting: master, faculty, and student schedules; accreditation; and our website. She will still have time to continue teaching PE to all students. Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Tucker to the administrative team!

**Bookkeeper:** The school is looking for a part-time bookkeeper. If you know of any qualified candidates, please refer them to the job posting on the school webpage.

**2022-2023 Re-enrollment:** It is hard to believe, but it is time to start thinking about re-enrollment for the next school year. The Advisory Council and Parish Finance Council have approved the school budget. You should have received two emails from me on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> was a letter from the Advisory Council about the tuition and tuition policy, the second was instructions on how to complete your online re-enrollment through FACTS Family Portal. Please read both emails carefully. We ask that you complete your application as soon as possible, but no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. There will be a \$100 late fee assessed for re-enrollment after February 15<sup>th</sup>.

The school opened re-enrollment for current families on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. **Returning families will have until February 15<sup>th</sup>, to reenroll current student(s) and/or submit an application for a sibling. A \$160 re-enrollment fee (per family) is due upon re-enrollment.** Upon submission of Online Enrollment, a family has until April 1, 2022, families can withdraw their enrollment at any time with no cancellation penalty. Any application or re-enrollment fees paid are non-refundable for any reason regardless of the date of withdrawal. Between April 1, 2022, and June 1, 2022, any family wishing to void their tuition contract will owe a contract cancellation penalty of \$1,000 per student. This amount is due in full by June 1, 2022. After June 1, 2022, if a student is withdrawn for any reason, the remaining tuition, and consumable fees through the end of the academic year must be paid in full.

**If you have not completed the enrollment process by February 15<sup>th</sup>, your child will no longer be guaranteed a spot for the 2022-2023 school year. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the school will begin accepting applications from new families for the 2022-2023 school year.**

**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 also 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 accounts.

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](http://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.

**Spread the Word – Open House Events:** We have several upcoming events that might be of interest to prospective Saint Joseph families. I ask that each of you think about someone you could invite to these events. We know that the best way to advertise our school is for our families to share their great experiences.

### **Future Saints Start Here**

A special informational session for prospective 4K and 5K families.

Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 5:00 – 6:30

### **Group Tours and Meet the Principal**

Come meet our principal, take a group tour of our campus, and get a taste of student life.

Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> — 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> — 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

### **Individual Tours and Meet the Principal -- Any time by appointment**

Please pass along these dates and information to any potential new saints you may know.

**MAP Testing:** 5K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades will be testing this week. Here are a few things students and parents can do to prepare for MAP testing:

***Please refrain from scheduling any appointments for students during testing.*** Students who are late will not be able to take the test with their class and will need to make up the test on Friday.

Make sure your students ***get plenty of sleep***. Going to bed a little earlier can help ensure a good night's sleep. Being well-rested will give your children an extra boost of energy for test day.

***Provide a nutritious breakfast.*** Eating protein (eggs, meat, cheese, etc.), rather than a sugary donut, will help students perform better. (Too much food can make them feel sleepy, so do not overdo it!)

Be sure your child gets some ***exercise after school*** to keep their energy up.

Remind children to ***double-check their work on the test***. They can catch mistakes if they take the time to proofread answers carefully.

***Encourage*** your children to do their very best, but do not place too much emphasis on the test.

Please contact the school if you have questions about MAP testing.

**Christmas Program Photos:** Here is a link to see the wonderful photos from our Christmas music program. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/19bpr7l0k4w421c/AACxTY0JQFt8wNM-nHKkOmn3a?dl=0> Many thanks to Shell Suber from Shell Suber Photography for capturing these great shots.

**Annual Ecumenical Service:** If you attend a church or synagogue other than St. Joseph Church, please complete the following form so that we can invite your pastor or rabbi to our Annual Ecumenical Service which will be held on January 19 at 9:00 a.m. <https://forms.office.com/r/K8eFVES6Nj>

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](mailto:dyarnall@stjosdevine.com)