

December 5, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Saint Nick; Early Dismissal; iGiveCatholic; SJCS Saint Socks; Second Quarter Service Project; Advent Prayer Programs; Christmas Shop; SJCS Student Council Fundraiser for Greg's Groceries; SJCS Christmas Program; Used Uniform Sale; PSAT; Covid Children's Vaccinations; and Technology Times Newsletter.

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 effect for the best the lives of those close to me. 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 and in patience and in hope.

Saint Nick: Saint Nick will visit the school tomorrow, Monday, December 6th, he will be leaving a small treat on each student's desk.

Early Dismissal: The school will have a 2:00 pm dismissal tomorrow, Monday, December 6th. There will be extended care offered until 6:00 pm.

iGiveCatholic: A big thank you to the 83 donors who supported our school during the iGiveCatholic 24-hour Giving Day. We were able to collect \$10,295 for the 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. There are several ways to give to the Saints Fund, each year:

iGiveCatholic 24-hour Giving Day (November); Yearly annual fund (October-June);

Midlands Gives Community Giving day (May). 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 funds raised during IGiveCatholic are a great start on that goal - we are blessed by the support of so many!

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 the end of the day today, December 5th. Help support our school with Saints Socks!

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

Second Quarter Service Project: For our 2nd quarter service project, we are 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.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, you may use this link

<https://serveandconnect.networkforgood.com/projects/145701-st-joseph-s-school-donations-for-greg-s-groceries>

The deadline to donate food for Greg's Groceries has been extended to 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. This group will meet each day the school is in session from 7:25-7:45 am during the advent season. Students will gather each morning in the cafeteria to pray the rosary and prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus.

The second advent program will be the blessing and lighting of the school Advent wreath. Advent wreath services will take place at 8a each Tuesday and Wednesday the school is in session during Advent. Parents and parishioners are welcome to join us for any of these prayer programs.

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 was in last week's Monday folder - please complete it. Return the form, and money 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.

SJCS Student Council Fundraiser for Greg's Groceries: Student Council is sponsoring a Chick-fil-A biscuit sale. Orders are due on **Monday, December 13th**, and biscuits will be delivered on **Wednesday, December 15th**. All proceeds will be donated to Greg's Groceries. Save time in the morning by purchasing chicken biscuit(s) for breakfast. Sandwiches will be hot and ready and delivered to classrooms at 7:30. You must pre-order there will be no biscuits sold on Wednesday. **The cost is \$4 per biscuit.** Please complete and return one order form per student with payment to your teacher or school office **no later than Monday, December 13th**. Checks should be made payable to Saint Joseph Catholic School. See attached flyer. The flyer will also be in tomorrow's Monday Folder.

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.

Used Uniform Sale: The PTO will be hosting a Used Uniform Sale on Monday, January 3, 2022, from 2:00-4:00 pm in the school cafeteria. If you're interested in selling clothes at the event please email SJUS2021@gmail.com for tags. Drop off for tagged clothes will be at the school office from 8am-12pm on January 3rd. Please see the attached flyer.

PSAT: Northwestern -The Center for Talent Development, in collaboration with Saint Joseph Catholic School, is offering the opportunity for students in grades 3-6 to take the PSAT™ 8/9 as part of a national Talent Search Program. The test will be offered here at Saint Joseph School on Saturday, January 22nd, and Saturday, February 12th. Please see the attached flyer for more information and to register for the test.

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. To date, we have 110 students who have either started and or completed the

vaccination process. That is 40.7% of our student population is either fully vaccinated or started the process.

Technology Times Newsletter: Mrs. Christie Cook, has published a Technology newsletter – please use the link to check out what is happening in Technology <https://www.smore.com/up62c3>

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
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