

February 26, 2023

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Financial Aid 2023-2024; Lent; Faculty Openings; No School; Read Across America Week; Pi Day; Feast of Saint Joseph; Food Truck Friday; Saint Patrick's Day Parade; Thank you! and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: Lent is one of the best times of the year for spiritual renewal. In some ways it can be considered a forty-day retreat lived each year within the context of your daily life. Most Catholics have understood the importance of Lent since childhood because of Lenten practices, such as being marked with ashes, abstaining from meat on Fridays, and giving something up as a sacrifice. All of these practices help to bear spiritual fruit in our lives. One of the most important parts of our Lenten practice is that of engaging the Holy Scriptures in a powerful and personal way. Scripture is the Word of God. Therefore, with the Word of God, we encounter Jesus Himself as we prayerfully reflect upon it. Reading and meditating on the Scriptures is a way of allowing our Divine Lord to speak to us, draw us to Himself and communicate His perfect and all-consuming love. This Lenten season take time to read and meditate on the scripture. The daily reading can be found at <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/022623.cfm>

Financial Aid 2023-2024: The deadline to apply for financial aid is this Tuesday, February 28th.

We, as a school and parish, continue to seek ways of ensuring that the blessings of a quality Catholic education are accessible to everyone.

General School Assistance through FACTS: The school offers a tuition assistance program open to all families. ***The application must be submitted online to FACTS by Tuesday, February 28th.*** To apply, simply login to the FACTS Family Portal account of the family member who is listed as being financially responsible (this should be the person who completed the enrollment/re-enrollment and set up the FACTS tuition payment). Once logged in, choose FACTS from the menu options on the left side of the screen. You will then choose "Apply for Grant and Aid". You will be redirected to the FACTS website and will need to follow the instructions there for completing the application. You should already have a FACTS account that you created for your tuition draft so use those same login credentials. You will need the following documents to complete the application process:

- copies of your most recent Federal tax forms, including all supporting tax schedules (preferably 2022 tax documents)
- copies of your 2022 W-2 forms
- copies of supporting documentation for social security income, welfare, child support, food stamps, workers' compensation, and TANF.

Diocese of Charleston's Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Tuition Assistance Grant: This tuition assistance grant is for Catholic families in good standing with their parishes. ***The application, along with a completed FACTS financial aid application (see instructions above for completing the form through FACTS Family Portal), is due to the school by Wednesday, March 15, 2023.*** The application lists the due date as March 25, 2023. However, that is the date that the applications are due to the Diocese of Charleston and since they require your pastor's signature as well as the signature of Principal Yarnall, we need to receive them in time to obtain signatures and mail to Charleston. Please note that the application will not be accepted by the Diocese of Charleston unless you have completed the online FACTS financial aid application as well.

If the financial aspect of your child's education becomes a concern at any time, please contact the school office to discuss your situation with me (Mr. Yarnall). If you have any questions about the process, please contact me (Mr. Yarnall) at 803-254-6736 or Dyarnall@stjosdevine.com

Lent: During the Lenten season, the school will offer Mary's Children daily for students and parents 7:25-7:45. Make plans to join us to pray the Rosary. Additionally, during the Lenten season, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the school will gather at 8:00am in the gym for the Stations of the Cross. Parents are always welcome to join.

Faculty Openings: There are three jobs that have been posted on our employment page: Technology teacher; Director of Student Support; and Director of Extended Care. Please use the link to learn more about the positions. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please refer them to our webpage <https://www.stjosdevine.com/employment>

No School: There will be no school on Friday, March 3rd as the teachers will participate in the Diocese of Charleston Teacher Conference. There will be Extended Care 8am-6pm. Additionally, there will be no school on Monday, March 6th for the Bishop's Holiday. There is no Extended Care on March 6th.

Read Across America Week: The school will celebrate Read Across America week - March 7th-March 10th. We will be celebrating the importance of reading with fun-themed days and activities.

Activities are as followed:

Tuesday: Teacher Reading Relay: Teachers will visit another classroom and share their favorite book!

Wednesday: Share Your Love of Reading Day: Students can bring a book from their home collection to read/share with their class.

Thursday: Character Day: Dress as your favorite book character.

Friday: Favorite Book Day: Students will create a bookmark that represents their favorite book.

Pi Day: Mark your calendars and practice your best “Pi”rate voice to join your child for “Pi Day Palooza”, a fun, math-themed, one-day experience at St. Joseph on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Teachers will be in touch with further information if parents want to join their child(ren)’s, class. Math teachers and students will explore a variety of standards-based math problems and activities. They will learn about the most famous irrational number, Pi, and participate in creating some Pi Day make and take crafts. The culminating activity will be a "Pi" in Mr. Yarnall's face by the class which collects the most canned goods! This will be a school-wide event at the end of the day. STAY TUNED!

Feast of Saint Joseph: The school will celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph on Friday, March 17th. Students are asked to wear any red shirt with uniform bottoms. This is not a full dress down day. PTO will treat the students and staff to a pizza luncheon.

Food Truck Friday: Please join us for a Food Truck Friday on March 17th from 5-8pm! We will be gathering as a school and church community for fellowship and celebrating the feast of St. Joseph! Bishop Fabre-Jeune and Monsignor Harris have graciously granted dispensation from our Lenten obligation to abstain from meat that Friday in celebration of St. Joseph. We look forward to seeing everyone there! More information to follow!

Saint Patrick’s Day Parade: Save the date and please join SJCS for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18, 2023 at 9:30 am. We need students and families to help represent the school in the parade. Students should wear their dress uniform (ties optional) and the PTO will provide fun St. Pat’s accessories. Our start location is still to be determined, so please be on the lookout for an email with where to meet our group. Please use this link to sign up so we know how many families to expect. You are welcome to join us for some of the parade and leave early if needed. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4baaa723a4f58-stpats#/> Contact Cheryl Munro (cheryl.munro2@gmail.com) with any questions."

Thank you: The PTO would like to give a huge thanks to Anne Ryan who has spearheaded St. Joe’s Clothes. She has worked tirelessly to get the store up and running. And, we have had a very successful buyback and first day of sales. Thank you, Anne!

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

February 28 th	Financial Aid deadline
March 3 rd school for students.	Diocese of Charleston – Teacher Education Conference - No EC 8a – 6p

March 4 th	Transfiguration Catholic Church Fish Fry. 5:30-8 – fish-fry-announcement
March 6 th	Bishop's Holiday- No school – No EC
March 7 th -10 th	Read Across America Week
March 11 th	Transfiguration Catholic Church Fish Fry. 5:30-8 – fish-fry-announcement
March 14 th	Pi Day Palooza – Math day at SJCS
March 15 th	Dress Down Day 6-Students
March 17 th	Feast of St. Joseph's -School Mass
	Student red shirt dress down – uniform bottoms
	Pizza luncheon for the student body
	End of the 3 rd quarter
March 18 th	Saint Patrick's Day Parade 9:30

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
dyarnall@stjosdevine.com