

December 11, 2022

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; 12 Noon Dismissal; SJCS Christmas Camp; MAP Data; SJCS Christmas Program; Run With the Saints 5K; Christmas Store; Advent Prayer Programs; Ecumenical Prayer Service; and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: Forgive over and over and over? How do we understand this gospel call to discipleship, which seems so difficult? How is it even possible to live this way? The saints show us. One striking fact about St. Patrick is something simple yet powerful: He went back. After a boyhood of enslavement by the Celts, after escaping across the channel to safety and secure life of study and ministry, he heard God's call, and he returned—to serve the very people who had held him captive. He embodied Jesus' call to forgiveness, and he challenges us to follow. —Excerpted from *2020: A Book of Grace-Filled Days* by Amy Welborn

12 Noon Dismissal: The school will dismiss at 12 Noon on Friday, December 16th for Christmas Break. There will be no extended care.

SJCS Christmas Camp: We are extending the deadline to register for the Christmas Camp to **Monday, December 12th**. **Christmas Camp** will be held Monday, December 19-23rd. Please see the attached flyer for more information and to register for the camp.

MAP Data: If you have not already **had a chance** to read and review the email that was sent on Thursday, December 8th about our outstanding testing results as **they relate** to local, Diocesan and **national** schools, **please** take time to use the links [Scores Letter](#) and [MAP Data](#) or see attached files to review them and share them within the community. Great things are happening at SJCS!

SJCS Christmas Program: The school will host our Christmas program on Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Gym. All students are asked to wear dress uniforms to the program. Please have students report to their homeroom no later than 6:00 p.m. We will have a red uniform shirt and daily uniform bottoms day on Friday, December 16th. We look forward to having the community together for the Christmas program. Please contact Mrs. Cynthia Fruth Cfruth@stjosdevine.com with questions.

Run with the Saints 5K: Mark your calendars for the 8th annual Run with the Saints (RWTS) 5K and 1-mile Fun Run. The races will take place on Saturday, January 28th. This event is a Midlands favorite and one of SJCS's largest fundraisers. Please sign up at <https://www.strictlyrunning.com/gpscrlnReg-9f.asp> and remember to include your \$5 coupon code, SAINT5. All 5K runners will receive a race t-shirt if they register before Friday, January 6th. Runners who register after January 6th are not guaranteed a race t-shirt. These t-shirts are a

favorite of all of our students and families! This year we are planning to offer a prize for the class with the highest student participation (more details to come)! Be on the lookout for a flyer that will be coming home in Monday folders on December 12th.

Christmas Store: A big thank you to Kaley Wilson and all her many volunteers who helped make the Christmas store a huge success!

Advent Prayer Programs: The school will continue to 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 during Advent 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. Advent wreath services will continue at 8a each Tuesday and Thursday on which the school is in session during Advent. Parents and parishioners are welcome to join us for any of these prayer programs.

Ecumenical Prayer Service: Each year, we enjoy a celebration with ministers, pastors, and rabbis from the churches and synagogues that our students attend. We have not been able to meet in person for several years (we shared video messages with our students), but we are hoping to host an in-person prayer service in January once again. This is an excellent opportunity to bring together our school family and faith. If your family attends a place of worship other than St. Joseph Church, please complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/sJT6QT9cqV> so that we can invite your minister, pastor, or rabbi to be part of our service.

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

December 14	SJCS Christmas program - 6:30pm
December 16	12 Noon Dismissal-Christmas Break - No Extended Care
January 4	Classes resume – 1 st day of 3 rd Quarter
January 5	2 nd Quarter Report Cards emailed home
January 9	MAP winter testing starts
January 16	No School – MLK Day

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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