

January 28, 2023

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Divine Auction; Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Masses; Catholic Schools Week; 2022-2023 Re-enrollment; Financial Aid 2023-2024; Spread the Word – Open House Events; Run with the Saints 5K; Saints Summer Camp; Daddy Daughter Dance; and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: Thank you for giving your child the gift of a Catholic education! I have shared this outstanding article for several years; it is a powerful piece and speaks to the strength of Catholic school education and Saint Joseph education. Please take a minute to read this excellent article about why we choose a Catholic education for our children: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/acatholicthinker/2015/01/why-my-kids-go-to-catholic-school/>. Please also consider sharing this article and why you are choosing a Catholic education for your child on your social media pages.

Why Choose a Catholic Education?

The legacy of a Catholic education is more than the knowledge imparted to our students; it is the development of a deep and abiding sense of faith, the realization of the value of moral character, and the inspiration of a life-long journey of learning. —Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Catholic Schools, and specifically Saint Joseph, have a long tradition of promoting excellence in academics, encouraging spiritual growth, and assisting in the formation of students in...

MIND... Every student has the potential to succeed and with a comprehensive academic environment conducive to educational reflection and study, as found in the many Catholic Schools of our network, students are given a solid foundation on which to build bright academic futures.

HEART... *"It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."* – Mother Teresa Catholic education fosters a sense of community and an abiding understanding of the importance of service to others. With a focus on actively living one's faith and providing an example of character to others in daily life, Catholic Schools assist students in realizing their gifts and learning to value the contribution of others.

& SPIRIT... Whether it is on the field of competition or in celebration of a job well done, Catholic Schools invite students to strive for excellence in all that is undertaken, to challenge their perceptions of limitations, and to exceed them.

Catholic Schools welcome students of all backgrounds and faiths to experience the comprehensive education of mind, heart, & spirit. Consider your student's academic career a success story waiting to be written. #ichosestjoes

Divine Auction: The 2023 Divine Auction is almost here! Please join us Friday, February 3rd, at Carolina Park (next to the Cockabooses...the same place as last year) from 6:30 - 10:30. There is still time to buy tickets or to become a Host Family! Check out our website for more information (<https://Divine23.givesmart.com>) Be sure to check out all of our great auction items!

A few great silent auction items we have: A beautiful Woodard Capri cafe set donated by Jack Oliver's Pool, Spa & Patio, 2 reserved parking spots for the USC/Clemson game this year, lots of reserved front rows for many St. Joseph School functions, beautiful original art pieces, and much more!

We also have amazing art pieces created by our homerooms, exciting Teacher Experiences and some fun Parties with a Purpose! Even if you can't come to the event, you can still bid on items through the website -

<https://Divine23.givesmart.com>).

The Live Auction will feature a few Teacher/Principal for the Day experiences, a Cocks Corner Parking Spot for the 2023 season, a wonderful matching scholarship opportunity from Monsignor Harris and a Reserved Row at Christmas Eve 4:00 Mass! Remember you need to be at the auction for a chance to bid on these items!

A few reminders:

Silent Auction Items go live Monday morning - make sure you are registered so you can start bidding!

Teacher experiences and Parties with a Purpose will not open until the auction starts on Friday at 6:30.

Last Reminder to turn in your gift cards by Friday, Feb. 3rd! The homeroom with the most gift cards turned in wins a pizza party!!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Auction, and thank you for all the support of this wonderful event!!

Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Masses: National Catholic Schools Week is from January 28th to February 3rd. The school and Parish will kick off the week with Saint Joseph school students filling the liturgical roles at each weekend's Masses on January 28th and 29th. All students are asked to attend one of the four weekend Masses in their dress school uniforms. All students who attend one of the recognition Masses will get a coupon for a dress-down day on Monday, February 6th.

Catholic Schools Week: CSW is an annual celebration of Catholic schools in the United States. Here at Saint Joseph, we spend the week honoring all the people who contribute to the continued success of our school. Below is a list of some of the activities we have planned for this year.

Sunday, January 29th

Celebrating our Parish

CSW Mass 8:00; CSW Mass 10:30; CSW Mass 12:15

Monday, January 30th

Celebrating our Community.

Thank you gifts sent to local supporters

100th day of school

Tuesday, January 31st

Celebrating our Faculty/Staff/Volunteers

PTO Teacher Luncheon

CN music mixer 11:30-12:15 all grades in Gym

Wednesday, February 1st

Celebrating the Nation

8:15 – PTO will deliver Hot Cocoa to the grade-level wings

Student Red/White/Blue dress down

Thursday, February 2nd

Celebrating Vocations

10:00 – Vocations panel – gym – All grades

1:30 – Living Rosary – Church – All grades

Friday, February 3rd

Celebrating Students

Mini Dance Marathon 9:30-10:15 (pre-4 - 2nd) and 10:30-11:15 (3rd-6th)

Lunchtime popsicle treats for all grades

1:30-2:45 – Entertainer- Sarah Dippity - Gym – All grades

PTO Auction – 6:30p-10:30p

Student Dress down – Please remember that students will have Mass at 8:15

2022-2023 Re-enrollment: Thank you to those families who have already completed your application for the 2023-2024 school year. Going forward, there will be a \$100 late fee assessed for re-enrollment.

Financial Aid 2023-2024: 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 log in 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

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.

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 31st - 8:30 am - 10:30 am

Thursday, February 2nd - 12:00 pm - 2:00 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.

PowerPoint from the 5th and 6th Grade Open House on January 11th - [5th and 6th Grade Open House - Jan 11](#)

Run with the Saints 5K: A big thank you to Katie Livingston and Melissa Yezbak and their committee and volunteers for another successful race! Thank you to everyone who turned out to support this wonderful community event and fundraiser for our school!

Saints Summer Camp: We will be holding our Saints Summer Camp again this year. The summer camp will begin on June 12th and will run through August 4th. The camp will be closed the week of July 4th. We plan to get registration out soon; we are waiting for the Parish to set the VBS dates.

Daddy Daughter Dance: The PTO will host the Daddy Daughter Dance on Friday, February 10th, from 6:30-8:00 in the school gym. Look for more information in the coming days.

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

February 10 th	Class and Group Pictures PTO Daddy-Daughter Dance 6:00-8:30
February 16 th	12 Noon Dismissal – Optional Parent Teacher Conferences. No Extended Care.
February 17 th	No School – Teacher Workday – Extended Care open 8-6
February 20 th	No School – All Facilities are Closed for Presidents Day
February 22 nd	Ash Wednesday – All School Mass 9am

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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