

Under the guidance of Saint Joseph, Patron Saint of the universal Church, Saint Joseph School endeavors to achieve academic excellence in a faith-filled and safe environment. The school staff and parents collaborate to develop students' spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical well-being in a traditional Catholic setting.

December 8, 2021

Dear Parents,

A happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady! It is a beautiful time of year to have this feast in the joyful season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. As this is the second week of Advent, we pray, "O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Your only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve You with pure minds. Through Christ, Our Lord." We continue to pray the prayers for the Advent wreath as we travel along during this holy season. We are also following our Shepherd on the Search who can be found in different places throughout the school.

We had a wonderful Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday, December 4th. Everything in St. Michael Center was decorated beautifully, and everyone had a wonderful time. Many thanks to all of the parents who helped in any way with basket donations, wrapping up baskets, bringing baskets to St. Michael Center, setting up tables, decorating, coming to this event, and helping to clean up afterwards. This was a huge endeavor, and many hands make light work. Special thanks go to our Christmas Extravaganza Committee, Mrs. Beth Wigfield, Mrs. Angela May, Mrs. Nicole Kunkle, Mrs. Kathryn Nash, and Mrs. Darlene FitzGerald. Without this committee, none of this would have happened! Also, many thanks to Mr. Warren Baker for being our auctioneer. The profit for this event is \$7755.13.

Our latest update on our \$50,000.00 is \$34,583.00. So we really have to have about \$15,500.00 added to this amount to reach our goal.

Our next event is the Christmas Concert which will take place on Friday, December 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Michael Center. This is by ticket only with four tickets for each family. If for some reason, you don't need all four tickets, please return them so that they can be used for another family, if needed. Please note that students are not included in the ticket requirement. **Again the dress code is as follows: Boys – dress shirt, tie (regular or bow tie), dress pants or school pants, socks, and dress or school shoes; Girls – modest dress or skirt and blouse (no mini skirts)!, socks or stockings, dress shoes. Flip flops, leggings, dress pants, and jeans are not allowed. Everyone must wear masks in St. Michael Center including our students. They will remove their masks when performing and wear them after their performance.** Our students have worked hard on this concert as well as the Art Show with Mrs. Kaitlin Cassidy which will be on display at the back of SMC.

May I remind you that we are still under a mask mandate; therefore, everyone must wear a mask when entering St. Michael Center and for the entire concert which will be approximately 45-50 minutes. If you don't have a mask, you will be given one.. Please cooperate with this mandate. We are setting up chairs so that each family is a cluster to ensure safety for everyone. This is a large facility that can accommodate 600 people under normal circumstances. We are doing everything possible to make this an enjoyable and safe concert.

Tomorrow, December 9th, four of our students will be participating in the FMI Band Concert to be held in Sacred Heart Church in Taftville at 6:00 p.m. The students participating are Laura LaCasse, Natalie Lopez-Hernandez, Karina Colondres, and Noah Curtis-Gray. We are very proud of these students and what they have accomplished. Everyone is welcome to attend this concert in this huge church. **Again, everyone must wear a mask for this concert.**

There is a new Men's Group that is open to men 18 and over. This prayer group is for men who have decided to take an active role in their faith life, their family life, and their parish life. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 21st, at St. Joseph Church, Occum at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. For more information, please visit www.mosji.org or contact Brian Daly at (860) 884-5502 or BJDaly@aol.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, December 10th

Christmas Concert and Art Display at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Michael Center

Thursday, December 23rd

**12:30 p.m. dismissal with NO AFTERCARE PROGRAM
Christmas Vacation begins!!**

God bless you and have a wonderful week!

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Mary Patrick, SCMC
Principal