

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 1, 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from our Thanksgiving break. What a wonderful time to give thanks to God for His many blessings as we gathered together with our families to celebrate this beautiful time!

We are now in the season of Advent and our prayer for this week is: "Lord, stir up your might, we beg You, and come, that by Your protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Your deliverance, Through Christ Our Lord. Amen."

In the midst of so much commercialism in the Christmas season, we are doing our best to keep our students in the Advent spirit. Even with the Christmas Extravaganza and the upcoming Christmas Concert, we pray daily the Advent prayer of the week over the intercom. In addition, we will have the "Shepherd on the Search" who will help us during this joyous season of waiting for the coming of the Christ Child in our hearts. Lastly, there are Advent wreaths and Jesse Tree symbols in some of our classrooms.

It was wonderful to see so many parents volunteering on Sunday to wrap the many baskets for our upcoming Christmas Extravaganza. St. Joseph School is so blessed to have so many wonderful and generous parents and volunteers who came here on Sunday to put together our many baskets. Many thanks to Mr. & Mrs. David Wigfield, Catherine and Nicholas, Miss Joan Pagliuso, Mrs. Gerry Dinato, Mrs. Melanie Chartier, Mrs. Caron Smith, Brianna and Marie, Mrs. Tricky Tanksley, Mrs. Chris Siebert, Mrs. Nicole Kunkle and Aubrey, Mrs. Angela May and Benjamin, Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Fournier, Mrs. Darlene FitzGerald, Mrs. Veronica Martin, Mrs. Amy Garganese, Mrs. Marta Kumelski, Mrs. Kathryn Nash and Genevieve. **Enclosed is a Pre-Sale Ticket form.**

As you know we will be having our Christmas Concert on Friday, December 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in St. Michael Center. As we are still in a pandemic which at this point in time has a 6.0 positivity rate, we do have to be careful. Therefore we are limiting attendance to four tickets per family. With that in mind, we also have all of our students who are to participate, and staff in St. Michael Center, so there will be approximately 300 people in this facility. I believe that this is a safe number as St. Michael Center can accommodate 600 people. While this may present some hardship on some families, if there is anyone who probably won't need all four

tickets, please contact me. You will find your tickets in an envelope in this week's folder. In addition to the concert, Mrs. Kaitlyn Cassidy, our art teacher, will have student Christmas art work on display and for sale. Our students have been working hard on this concert and art display and we do want to showcase our students. Once again the dress code for this concert is: **BOYS – dress shirt and tie (regular or bow tie), dress pants, dress/school shoes, socks; GIRLS: nice modest dress or skirt and blouse, socks/stockings, dress shoes or school shoes. Flip flops, sandals, leggings are not permitted.**

May I remind you if you are planning to come to our Christmas Extravaganza, there is a mask mandate for St. Michael Center. There is a reserved place for seating, but once you leave that area, you must wear your mask.

There seems to be some confusion regarding the gym uniform. As stated in our *Parent-Teacher Handbook* on p. 22, gym wear consists of navy blue t shirt, shorts and navy blue sweatshirt and sweatpants (in colder weather). Students have the option of wearing Spiritwear, Amber, or Jeanie shirts. **However, the shorts and the sweatpants must be navy blue. Please feel free to check our uniform closet outside my office for any of these items.**

Lastly, if your child has been vaccinated for COVID, please submit a copy of your child's card to Mrs. Strickland. Also, if your child has been exposed to COVID or has symptoms of this virus, please contact Mrs. Strickland at (860) 884-8218.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Friday, December 3rd** **First Friday Mass at 9:00 a.m. Parents, please sit in the back of the church and receive Holy Communion last.
12:30 p.m. dismissal. Daycare provided.
All baskets will be moved to St. Michael Center at around 4:30 p.m.**
- Saturday, December 4th** **Christmas Extravaganza at 6:00 p.m. in St. Michael Center**
- Wednesday, December 8th** **Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 9:00 a.m.
This is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics.
Parents are welcome to attend, but please sit in the back of the Church and receive Holy Communion last.**
- Friday December 10th** **Christmas Concert and Art Display at 7:00 p.m. in St. Michael Center. All students should be in SMC by 6:45 p.m.
The mask mandate in SMC is in effect. All parents/guests must have a ticket.**

God bless you and have a wonderful week!

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Mary Patrick, SCMC
Principal