

*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 environment.*

December 15, 2021

Dear Parents,

As we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, commonly known as Gaudate Sunday, we pray, "O Lord, we beg You, incline your ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Your visitation. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen." As we continue the Advent season, we see our Shepherd on the Search around the building.

At this time, I would like to congratulate our students on a wonderful Christmas Concert last Friday. We can be very proud of them not only for their performance, but also for their wonderful art work. Many thanks to Mrs. Kaitlyn Cassidy for her hard work with the students and for providing us with a Baby Jesus! Also, many thanks to Mrs. Tricky Tanksley for helping to set up all of the art work at the back of St. Michael Center. Thank you also to all of our families for providing such a wonderful audience. We still have some art work to be picked up. All totaled, we made \$520.00 on this project which will go towards art supplies.

Many thanks for all of you who were present for the Holy Hour for Miss Joan Pagliuso, our kindergarten teacher. As you know, she is a wonderful teacher and we need a miracle. It was very heartening to see so much support for her. **Also, we are having the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, offered for Miss Pagliuso**, so if it is possible to attend, that would be wonderful. However, just on your own praying for her is much appreciated.

As we all know, the devastation of the tornado in Kentucky was horrendous. Please keep all of these families in your prayers.

**Due to the increase in COVID cases in Connecticut and especially right here in Baltic, we will be going remote from January 3-7, 2022. We realize that there will most likely be many family gatherings during the Christmas break. Therefore, on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, students will be bringing home their chrome books/iPads, books, and workbooks. All students will work from home during that week. You can expect some Zoom classes and**

**packets to be either submitted electronically or when returning on January 10<sup>th</sup>. I am informing you now so that you can make plans for this week. While this may create some inconvenience for you as parents, we feel that it is the safest strategy for our students and staff.**

At this time we ask that if your child has been exposed to COVID or tests positive for COVID at any time including the Christmas vacation, please contact Mrs. Strickland, our school nurse at (860) 884-8218.

Next week, on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have a “Dress Down” day. We will have a brief band performance in the gym followed by a modified “La Posadas” in which we re-enact Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem. For both of these assemblies, we will be socially distanced in our gym. Each class will have a G-rated Christmas movie, and we will have a Pizza party. **Dismissal is at 12:30 p.m. on December 23<sup>rd</sup> with NO AFTERCARE PROGRAM FOLLOWING DISMISSAL.**

Enclosed is a flyer advertising free winter coats sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in Putnam. Please feel free to take advantage of this offer.

There will be no Wednesday letter next week.

From all of us here at Saint Joseph School to all of you, may you have a Blessed and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Sister Mary Patrick, SCMC  
Principal