



INSPIRING MINDS • BUILDING CHARACTER • LIVING FAITH



Saint  
Joseph  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Kind Kids

One look at the news today and it seems as if kindness and generosity are taking a backseat to conflict and dissension. Thankfully, one walk through the halls of Saint Joseph Catholic School, and one will see that thoughtfulness and compassion are alive and well. From reading to younger students, to spending time with bucket buddies or simply lending a hand, our students epitomize character. It's not only evident in the National School of Character award the school recently received, but also in the daily curriculum Lisa Leonard, Saint Joseph Catholic School Guidance Counselor, shares with her students. And of course, it all begins at home. So it's wonderful to hear when the good character of our students is recognized outside of the school, as it was for Catherine and Christine Bresnahan, fourth and second graders at Saint Joseph.

The Bresnahan family are neighbors to Leslie Michael, a Saint Joseph Catholic Church parishioner. The girls had the opportunity to shop for coats for the church's Giving Tree over the Christmas holidays. They had so much fun doing this with Leslie that she asked the girls if they wanted to adopt a family from the Families Helping Families program instead of getting gifts from her. The answer was a resounding yes. Together, they adopted a family that consisted of a single mother and two young girls. "We went to purchase the items and the girls were so sweet and so excited," said Leslie. "It was such a neat experience for me." After the shopping trip, the girls went with Leslie to the church to gather the food from the 5:30 Mass to take to the food pantry. That Sunday, they went to Leslie's house and wrapped all of the gifts. "They made everything fun and it was just great," adds Leslie. "For the next week I was on cloud nine every time I thought about it." It's an experience that Leslie will always cherish – all thanks to the kindness of two young girls who simply wanted to help another. Kind kids to be sure.



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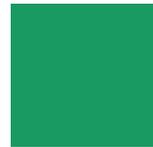
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## ECUMENICAL SERVICE

On January 23, Saint Joseph celebrated our Ecumenical Prayer Service with clergy from all of the churches attended by Saint Joseph Catholic School students. Following the service, students enjoyed fellowship with their clergy members and even took them to visit their classrooms.





## A Time for Spiritual Renewal

Lent is upon us. A time to set aside the Ordinary and embrace the meditation and simplicity of the Lenten season. Lent is an opportunity to cast off the sin that so easily traps us, embrace God's charge to love others more deeply and, despite our predictable shortcomings, grow closer to our loving, forgiving, risen Lord. As Philadelphia's Archbishop Chaput has said, "Lent is an opportunity and a grace, not a burden...Unless we understand our own sinfulness, unless we understand the urgency of repentance and reconciliation, the Cross makes no sense, the Resurrection makes no sense." Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a means to spiritual renewal. [Discover new ways to observe the season, as you look to understand your own sinfulness and need for repentance.](#) Within the 40 days, try to create a road map to help your family build spiritual renewal. The student body will be paving the path to the Cross with stones during Lent. Each student is personalizing stones, designed as a Lenten Alms, or prayer reflection, to be placed along the main hallway. The students will also be attending the Stations of the Cross on a regular basis.

We have many things to give thanks for since our last edition:

- » I am excited that we will be adding a Director of Academic Success to our team of outstanding teachers next year. This person will be working with both our top students, as well as those students who need some extra assistance. This person will also be coordinating our Response to Intervention team (RTI). RTI is a multi-tiered approach to supporting all students' needs. The RTI process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom. We are always looking for ways to help grow the whole child to their fullest potential as we develop the next generation of Catholic leaders.
- » We would like to congratulate our students on their accomplishments so far in the First in Math program. In late October, we introduced our students to the program to enrich the math curriculum. The students enthusiastically embraced the program and have already exceeded the goals set for the year. Saint Joseph Catholic School is now ninth in the state! Our students have [solved more than one million math problems](#) so far. What an impressive start!
- » We have had several successful service projects as our students learn to give back to and serve our community. The projects have included canned food drives, book collections and the making and selling of paper cranes for Make-a-Wish and Smile Train.

Thank you for your support of Saint Joseph Catholic School as we Find JOY in the Journey – ["The Joy of the Lord is your strength."](#) [Nehemiah 8:10](#)

Sincerely,

Donovan Yarnall, Ed.S

Principal

The Joy  
of the Lord is  
your strength.

—*Nehemiah 8:10*

# A Life Well Lived

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. – 2 Timothy 4:7*



For those who knew and loved Deborah Hottel, this verse is a reflection of her life. As a loving mother, wife and teacher, Deborah left indelible memories with those whose lives she touched, most notably her husband, Don, and her son, Ben, a Saint Joseph Catholic School student. All through her life, Deborah was a champion in all that she did – from receiving her three

degrees from the University of South Carolina (Baccalaureate of Arts in French Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, and Juris Doctor), to teaching French to her students on through to serving the legal profession. Deborah also gave back to her community, devoting time to the Columbia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and pro bono legal work on behalf of children in the social services system.

Deborah bravely faced the steep odds against her when she received a double lung transplant on Christmas Day 2007, under perilous conditions. If not for the quick and correct diagnosis and action by a local physician of a rare condition, Deborah would have died in 2007. So experimental was the transplant operation that Duke Medical School hosted Deborah for Grand (teaching) Rounds so that she could be an example and inspiration to the doctors and students who practice and study there.

Deborah was given a second chance and she lived as a wonderful example of fortitude in the time that she had.

She also fought the good fight when she was diagnosed with cancer. It was through this final fight – through this living – that Deborah continued to show her strength. Her love for her family ever deeper and her impact on this community ever stronger.

Deborah's impact will clearly live on in the hearts and minds of Saint Joseph Catholic School thanks to a scholarship that has been created in her name, due mostly to a very generous donation made by a close, dear friend. This friend wishes to remain anonymous and hopes that it is Deborah's example that will serve as an inspiration to young students. The scholarship will be used to assist rising sixth grade students who may be in need of financial assistance.

"As a former teacher, Deborah would be so very pleased that the scholarship gives a young person an opportunity they might not otherwise have," says Don Hottel. "She would also like the idea that they must then take responsibility to make of it what they can."

The generosity shown to the Hottel family after Deborah's passing will never be forgotten. "We deeply appreciate this. One way people live on is in the memories of others. I think we keep this going over the years as a way of remembering Deborah," adds Don. And for those who benefit from the generosity of spirit in her name, new memories will be made and goals attained. A life well lived indeed.

*Those interested in donating to the Deborah Hottel Scholarship Fund can contact Principal Donovan Yarnall.*

## SAINTS FUND UPDATE

With the new year underway, now is a great time to contribute to the Saint Joseph School Saints Fund. The Saints Fund is instrumental in providing resources for student curriculum enhancement, faculty development, school resourcing, and facility upkeep. Our annual goal for the fund is \$60,000 and we hope to achieve 80% participation among Saint Joseph School families.

We encourage you to consider donating online, which is safe and secure, and offers

several conveniences. On our website, you will find a variety of contribution options, including easy set up for making monthly payments on your pledge. Transactions are instantaneous and you will receive immediate notification of your gift. Donating is also possible via smartphone using the mobile app found on the website.

To make a donation online, please visit [www.stjosdevine.com](http://www.stjosdevine.com) and select "Support Our School." Thank you for helping us reach our goal!





## 60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Alumni, parents, parishioners and teachers came together on January 23 for a gala event to celebrate 60 years of education at Saint Joseph Catholic School. Everyone enjoyed great food, fellowship, music and dancing. Special thanks to Terri Boyle and Petrina Marsh for organizing the event.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
FOR MORE  
**60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

**APRIL 18**  
Family Fun Day  
11:00am-2:00pm  
Defender Services  
Bring your family for games,  
lunch and more!

**MAY 15**  
Closing Ceremony Mass  
and Reception  
Saint Joseph  
Catholic Church

## SAINT JOSEPH STUDENTS HAVE THE SPIRIT!

The **Spirit of Giving** is alive and flourishing at Saint Joseph. It's been an incredibly busy few months for our school. From collecting cans for the **Souper Bowl of Caring** (796 of them!) to provide to the Saint Vincent DePaul Society and donating books to **Hannah House** to visiting local businesses to share the story of Saint Joseph Catholic School and donating dollars to **Jump Rope for Heart**. The dedication to our school was also evident in the great turnout at our **Chick-fil-A Spirit Night** during Catholic Schools Week. Our students are proud of our school and we are proud of them!



As part of our Catholic Schools Week activities, students participated in a Living Rosary in Saint Joseph Church. All of these students from grades K4 to 6th took turns leading the school in the prayers.

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