

March 8, 2020

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the Week; Daylight Savings Time; Parish Bicentennial Campaign; Coronavirus; International Potluck Dinner; Family Math Night; Saint Patrick's Day Parade; Talent Show; Lenten Events; and Focus on Diversity.

This is a long Sunday notes – however please take time to read the full notes as there is lot of important information included.

Thoughts for the week: “He was lost and has been found.” Luke 15:32 Lost keys, lost eyeglasses, lost papers. Finding these things brings a moment's relief. Lost direction, lost passion, lost relationship. Finding these things is a lifelong task. We lose, we find, we lose again. But do not fear; even when we are lost to ourselves, we are always in God's sight. This week talk with your families about things in your life are you hanging on to that are no longer worth keeping. What in your life is not worth losing? Together pray: You seek me constantly, O God. Grace me with a heart that can hold on to your will for me and discard my self-agenda. Amen.

The thoughts for the week come from Loyola Press. If you would like to receive these retreats sent to you daily, please follow this link: <http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm>. It is a great way to start your day.

Daylight Savings Time: Last night you should have set your clocks forward one hour. This is also a great time to change batteries in smoke detectors.

Parish Bicentennial Campaign: As the Diocese prepares to celebrate our 200th Anniversary this year, it is embarking on an unprecedented campaign - the *Bicentennial Campaign* - to fulfill its mission in the communities it serves. This historic endeavor seeks to: Strengthen our Parishes and Missions in the Catholic Community; Form Catholics to believe in the Gospel through religious education, facility and scholarship support to Catholic schools, and enhanced resources for vocations; and Live the Gospel through significant investment in social outreach ministries throughout the State of South Carolina.

The focus of the campaign at St Joseph's will be used for the improvement of our school and campus. Please see the renderings and descriptions below.

The scope of the project addresses three major areas:

1. Safety.

- a. Replacement of doors that no longer meet code
- b. Replacement of windows in classrooms to comply with best security and efficiency practices

2. Health.

- a. Removal of encased asbestos in windows



- b. Removal of encased asbestos in flooring

3. Environment & Aesthetics.

- a. Installation of new flooring in classrooms
- b. Installation of new counter tops and classroom surfaces
- c. Retrofit of lights to convert to LED bulbs, which will lessen costs over time
- d. Landscaping maintenance and improvements
- e. Installation of permanent street-front signage for improved visibility and awareness in the community



We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this important project for our school as we welcome a new phase of growth as a Catholic community in the Diocese of Charleston. Please take time to review the packet that will be mailed to each home this week.

Coronavirus: Most of us are aware of the current worldwide spread of COVID-19, or Coronavirus. Over the last eleven days we have watched its development in Europe and in the United States. While many domestic cases are currently located in Washington State and California, others have now been found in Florida, and even in our bordering states Georgia and North Carolina.

We have been keeping abreast of the situation in order to best care for our community at Saint Joseph. Current knowledge of this new strain of Coronavirus seems to indicate that it is much more serious for patients of advanced age or with underlying health conditions that might compromise immunity. According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), it spreads most commonly from symptomatic persons to others who are in close proximity. With that being said, they are still learning more about how it is spread.

Here at school, both teachers and maintenance are wiping down desks and high contact surface areas regularly. Our evening maintenance will be using disinfectants that are on the list of 100 known disinfectants that are known to kill COVID-19. We encourage all students and staff to observe good hygiene by washing hands regularly and thoroughly. Should your child feel sick, please keep them home.

It is difficult to say how things will progress. We will be listening to experts, following their guidance, and work to prepare for every eventuality. We will be asking our teachers to prepare potential online lessons should there be a future need for us to continue the learning from home. This is a remote possibility, but Italy and Japan have closed schools and Universities nationwide. We aim to be as prepared as we can be.

At links below you can find more information about COVID-19. These are updated regularly and can offer information and helpful counsel. We want to be cautious and responsible so that we can keep all safe.

<https://www.scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/educational-outreach-materials-2019-ncov>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

International Potluck Dinner: Saint Joseph School is excited to host an International Potluck Dinner along with a Family Math Night on Tuesday, March 17. Please come with your family and share a favorite dish from your cultural background (or any family favorite). Together we will enjoy delicious food from around the world, then participate in Family Math Night.

Family Math Night: Tuesday, March 17th will be our first annual Saint Joseph Family Math Night. Families are invited to join in the fun of solving math problems, completing puzzles, and stretching your brain! The fun will begin with our International Potluck Dinner, followed by math activities in the gym. The evening will culminate with a parent vs. student math relay and door prizes! Students who attend will earn math extra credit. Please RSVP by March 6 via the flyer that came home in the Monday folder. We look forward to seeing you there!

Saint Patrick's Day Parade: SJCS will participate in the Saint Patrick's Day parade on Saturday March 21st. Hurry and sign up to walk in the parade or ride on the trailer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084aaaad29aaf49-stpatricks>

We will meet in the school parking lot at 8:30am on the 21st and walk together to our assigned spot in line. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Children are encouraged to wear any type of school spirit wear (uniform, basketball jersey, race shirt, etc)- the greener the better! We will decorate our trailer after school on Thursday March 19th at 3:00. If you would like to help decorate or donate any decorating supplies, please contact Jessica Eadon 803-767-3399 or jessicaeadon@yahoo.com. Also, if you would like to donate bags of individually wrapped candy for the children to pass out during the parade, please feel free to drop off in the office. We are looking forward to having fun while showing our school spirit!

School Talent Show: Can your child sing, dance or perform a unique talent? The Student Council will host a school-wide talent show. The Student Council judges will pick the top 15 acts to perform on Thursday April 9th at 9:30 for the student body. There will be auditions on Wednesday March 25th, Thursday March 26th and Friday March 27th from 3:10-4:00. Please use the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48AFAC23ABFC1-school3> to sign up for an audition.

Lenten Events: During Lent, our school community participates in events that help us derive the most from this important liturgical season. First, students and parents are encouraged to join the daily **Mary's Children** Rosary group for the Lenten season. The group will meet daily from 7:25-7:45 a.m. each day the school is in session. All are welcome to join this prayer group. Next, we have a **Lenten Prayer Service** twice a week. We meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the gym at 8:00 a.m., **February 27-April 9**, and pray the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to join us! Another event we will participate in is the **Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl program** that benefits those in need throughout the world. Information about

this program and the "rice bowl" will be in Monday folders. Rice bowls should be returned with your donations by **April 3, 2020**.

Focus on Diversity: March is Women's History Month and the following will be implemented school-wide:

- Mrs. Fennessy will feature a basket of books on notable women and strong female characters in the library.
- Students will have an optional assignment: write a brief biography on a notable woman. These reports will be displayed in the cafeteria. The template went home in last week's Monday folder, it is also attached here.
- Book buddies in several grades will get together to read books on notable females.
- On-line resources were shared with teachers.
- A trivia contest on notable women in science and math is being held this week in the cafeteria. Answer the questions of the day correctly (using the poster in the cafeteria) and your name might be called for a prize!

The next diversity committee meeting is March 11 at 7:30 AM in the library. We will finalize plans for the International Potluck Dinner. All are welcome.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Faith to Move Mountains" Matthew 17:20. Have a blessed week!

Sincerely,

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