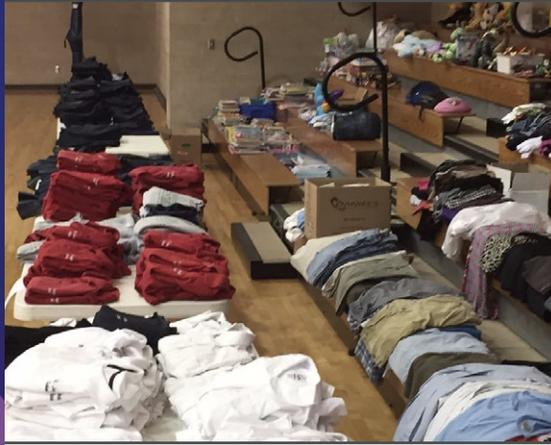


- From the Principal
- Student Council Returns
- Are You Ready to Run?
- Saints Fund Update



*Saint Joseph family members help sort donations of uniforms and household items for school families affected by the flood.*

## **Heavy Hearts, Hope For The Future**

The recent floods in our beloved city have left many of us with heavy hearts. Loved ones have been lost. Homes have been destroyed. Belongings have been ruined. Many in our Saint Joseph Catholic School family have been deeply affected by these storms. Our hearts are heavy, but they are also full of hope.

During this dark time, countless angels have walked among us. We've seen strangers lend a hand to those affected, family members travel across the country to help sort through the debris, donations of drinking water from thousands of miles away, meals provided for military service members and first responders who have spent tireless hours protecting our communities. While this is a time to grieve for what we have lost, it is also a time to be thankful.

Our city will never be the same. As the waters have receded, our hope for the future has strengthened. These floods have changed us; they have made us better.

Recognizing that the road to recovery will be a long one, Saint Joseph Catholic School has created a fund to provide support for those in our school family affected by this disaster. Please help if you can.

*Donations can be made to the Saint Joseph PTO. Please write "disaster relief fund" in the memo section. Contributions may be mailed to the school or dropped off at the school office.*



*Meteorologist John Farley helps the students better understand why and how floods happen.*

## ***Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School friends and family,***

This year we are striving to build the body of Christ by being the Hands, the Feet, and the Voice of Christ to our school, our families, and our community.

Saint Joseph Catholic School has a long history of striving for excellence while preparing the next generation of Catholic leaders. Our faculty and staff are fully committed to honoring that tradition. Before the school year even began, we read *What Great Teachers Do Differently: 17 Things that Matter Most* by Todd Whitaker. The book offers strategies for setting expectations and putting students first. The teachers of Saint Joseph restocked their toolboxes with beliefs, behaviors, and attitudes that will improve teaching and learning throughout the school.

We are excited about several new programs this year that are building on our long history of educating the whole child. First is our new Learning Center where the Director of Student Success, Mrs. Courtney Thompson, will work with students of all abilities to explore and reach their peak performance in a range of academic areas. The second is the reinstatement of our Student Council – an indication of our strong commitment to developing leadership and service within the student body. You can read more about Student Council in this newsletter.

I would also like to personally thank each of you for the great energy and wonderful word-of-mouth advertising you are providing the community about our school, its successes, and your experiences here. Your energy plus our fabulous teachers, improved culture, and supportive parish community are all helping our enrollment to grow. We have increased our enrollment by 23 students from last year. Thank you and please keep it up! And as always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,



Donavan Yarnall, Ed.S.  
Principal





## ***Building Leaders, Serving Others***

Developing the whole child is paramount at Saint Joseph Catholic School – from academics and attitude to self-confidence and selflessness. As evidence of that commitment, the Student Council was reinstated this year, providing opportunities for all of our students to grow as servant leaders. To be eligible for Student Council, students must be in fifth or sixth grade, demonstrate leadership skills, complete required school work, and consistently demonstrate our JOSEPH (*Just, Obedient, Service oriented, Example to others, Prayerful, Humble*) character traits. They must also be committed to serving others, as demonstrated through the completion of a summer service project.

“With Student Council, we wanted to build opportunities for leadership and encourage meaningful student involvement, while also increasing our students’ service within the school and community,” said Mr. Yarnall, principal of Saint Joseph Catholic School. “I hope that these students will live out their baptismal promise to

serve others, be leaders by their actions and words, and work to consistently demonstrate our JOSEPH character traits in the classroom and in the community.”

That focus on community is already in action in several projects to support the local community. This emphasis on others will guide members to strengthen their focus on servant leadership. “With Student Council, students will work on developing skills in planning and communication, while also reinforcing the qualities of humility and listening to others,” said Lisa Leonard, guidance counselor at Saint Joseph School. “We have no doubt these student leaders will bring out the best in others as they develop a sense of community. In this way they will grow in their faith, in their hearts, and in their minds.”

As members of Student Council, these children will set the standard for those who follow, letting their fellow students know that their voices matter. It’s never too early to make a difference in the lives of others!

### ***2015-2016 Student Council Members***

**FIFTH GRADERS:** William Andrews, Walker Bailey, Luke Bradley, Ally Cannon, Madison Clary, Michael Leonard, Crosby Lewis, Dominic Reiff, Juliann Rogers, Inara Spector, Ella Stuckey, Ellie Tanner, Jake Treiber, Adam Trimmier, Paul Martin Zamora

**SIXTH GRADERS:** Maddison Berends (*secretary*), Thomas Blake (*vice president*), Addie Carroll, Sarah Dayhuff (*treasurer*), Brandon Mallon, Ann Marie McGovern, James Nunn, Olivia Rowland, Marshall Seezen (*president*)

# Fall Festival Fun

Saint Joseph's students and families enjoy a free fun evening of games, inflatables, pie toss, hayrides, and more.



## Come Run With The Saints!

Break out your running shoes! Whether you're a seasoned runner taking home medals every weekend or someone who only runs when being chased, we need your help! Saturday, January 30th is the first-ever Saint Joseph Catholic School Run with the Saints 5K. Not only is it an opportunity for us to raise money for our school and St. Vincent de Paul food pantry, it will also allow us to showcase Saint Joseph School throughout the community.

The race will start and finish at our school, with the route taking runners through the beautiful Shandon neighborhood. There will also be an exciting Fun Run for children 11 and younger. Look for more information on ways to volunteer or sign up, and join us for fun, fellowship, and a little healthy competition. Did we mention there are cash awards for top finishers? Sounds like a challenge!

*If you have any questions, please contact Saint Joseph Catholic School's resident elite runner, MC Cox at [mccox@sc.rr.com](mailto:mccox@sc.rr.com).*



**SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

## The Great Pumpkin

Saint Joseph students' creativity is on display in the Annual Fall Festival Pumpkin Contest.



### Upcoming Events

**DECEMBER 9**

**REINDEER RUN**  
10:00am

Welcoming future K4 and K5 students for a morning of fun and games

**JANUARY 22**

**GRANDPARENTS DAY**  
9:00 - 11:00am

Ecumenical prayer service and classroom visits

**JANUARY 30**

**RUN WITH THE SAINTS**

5K and Fun Run benefiting St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and our school

**FEBRUARY 6**

**15TH ANNUAL DIVINE AUCTION**  
6:30 - 10:00pm

Food, fellowship, and fun

## Saints Fund Update Fall 2015

One great way for families to support the school's continuing excellence is by giving to the Saint Joseph School Saints' Fund. This annual giving campaign is the primary fundraising activity to bridge the gap between what it costs to educate our children and what the school charges in tuition.

The fund serves a variety of purposes, including student curriculum enhancement, faculty development, and facility maintenance.

**This year we have three goals for the Saints' Fund:**

1. Exceed \$60,000 in contributions to the fund,
2. Have participation from 80% or more of Saint Joseph School families, and
3. Grow parishioner and alumni support.

Contributions are welcome at any time, in any amount, and can even be spread out over the course of the year. *Thank you for your support!*



**Giving is Easy**  
Visit [www.stjosdevine.com](http://www.stjosdevine.com) and click on "Support Us" or submit your pledge card today.

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