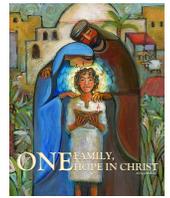




# St. Joseph the Worker School December 2021 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It seems that Christmas lights and trees are being put up even earlier than normal this year, with people trying to bring cheer and joy into what has been another emotionally difficult year for so many. The message of Advent – a waiting and preparation for something truly incredible, resonates in our hopeful hearts more than ever before.

I share excerpts from a prayer that may help offer peace and strength as we continue to assure both ourselves and others that during these seemingly endless pandemic days, we are not alone.

### **For Peace and Fortitude in Worry**

In this age of anxiety & stress, we ask for your Presence to be made clearly amongst us. Be with us, who live in a state of worry for our families, our friends, our colleagues, our communities, our nation, and our world.

As hospitals and health care providers seek to continue the healing ministry of You, may they have fortitude for each day ahead, knowing that you are walking this journey with them with your mighty Hand. Remind them of both their strength and of Your strength.

May healing be upon those who are physically and spiritually suffering through this season.

May we feel, during the uncertainty of this time, a strengthen in our resolve to lean on your word, abide in your presence, and be guided by your enduring and powerful Spirit.

You have been with us in every age and will always be our refuge. We know that we can take solace, recollect our thoughts, and remember that all things of this world are fleeting.

Let us recall the calming of the storm by your Hand. Let us today, tomorrow, and the days ahead, lean on Your fortitude, and resolve to care for each other and support each other through this difficult journey before us in our lives, both collectively and individually.

Amen.

*Written by: Elizabeth (Lisa) Ecks*

## **Virtual Guardians Gala Year 2: What a Fun Evening!**

Our recent Virtual Guardians Gala fundraising event was a great success on so many levels. Between the family-friendly format, great AV technology (minus those pesky internet lags), and super creative planning, it was a well-organized event that was enjoyed by all who tuned in and/or supported. Many thanks go out to our outgoing Gala Chair – Monica Sagastume, and her dedicated team of workers. Many hours of tireless work went into the success of the evening. It seems we knocked our Gala fundraiser goal of \$35,000 out of the park! We also offer a warm St. Joe's welcome to next year's Gala Chair, Rob Senghera, knowing our school's biggest fundraiser is in good hands for 2022-2023.

## **A Lucero Memorial Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Box Drive**

In the spirit of giving, St. Joe's proudly supported Operation Christmas Child. In total, 54 boxes were donated for the overseas charity program. Many thanks to all the families who participated in the program!

## **November Spirit Day Toy Drive: Great Job Everyone!**

We wrapped up our November Spirit Day Fundraiser with amazing results. Thanks to our school families' generous response, the St. Joe's Toy Drive donations will be utilized to support over 150 Richmond families. Many thanks go out to Mrs. Whitlock and the Kindergarten class for organizing this wonderful initiative!

## **St. Vincent de Paul Food and Toonie Drive - NEXT WEEK!**

Our annual Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul is next week! In keeping with being "generous St. Joe's", we will be bringing food items into the school during the upcoming week AND bringing in a Toonie on Spirit Dress Down Tuesday. The money raised can buy 3x as much food as retail, so we will do both dry goods AND cash! Students can

start bringing in food items this Monday, and then dress down with their toonie donation on Tuesday, December 7. Thanks in advance for your generous support!

## St. Joe's Christmas Celebration 2021

Sadly, our traditional Christmas Celebration and Seniors Luncheon will once again not be happening due to pandemic restrictions. With that said, Mrs. Withers, our Music Teacher, has come up with a unique way of sharing the Christmas spirit with our students, their families and the wonderful seniors in our parish. She is in the midst of putting together a virtual Christmas concert, complete with actors, singers and "Uncle Gabe", the story's narrator. The final production will be shared the evening of December 16, so families may watch the production together at home. A secure link to the celebration will be sent out via classroom emails the day prior to its release.

## Seniors Christmas Card Initiative

The School is feeling very sad that we cannot show our love for our parish and school seniors this year, so we are undertaking a Christmas Card program. We will be mailing out 150 cards from our K-7 students to our parish seniors, to help them feel a little more connected with the parish and school during this time of isolation.

## School Closures - REMINDER

This is a reminder of our school procedures with regard to school closures due to snow or other reasons. If there is a school closure, a closure posting will be made on our school website (and you will receive an instant email if you are properly subscribed to the office blogs). If no web blog is posted, the **school is open as usual**. If you feel, at any time, that it is unsafe to travel on the streets in your area, please do not feel that you have to get to school even if we are in session. We believe it's best to err on the side of caution when deciding if it is safe to take to the streets after a snowfall.

## Gift Cards for Your Christmas Shopping

It's an easy solution if you're thinking of giving something to family and friends for Christmas. All proceeds from the gift cards directly benefit the school and the tuition assistance program. Order forms are available in the Church Gathering Space at the gift card table or on the St. Joseph the Worker Parish website ([www.stjworker.org](http://www.stjworker.org)). There are also order forms at our school office, so please drop by to see what cards are available.