

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Let us learn from the Virgin Mary how to be bolder in obeying the word of God. -Pope Francis



Gratitude Corner

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, **THANK YOU** for the outpouring of love, kindness, and generosity during Teacher Appreciation Week! We definitely felt your warmth and joy through every kind word, flower, and delicious treat! We are truly blessed to partner with you in the education of your children.



Mr. Grant is **RETIRING** after 24 years as our Athletic Director. We are so **THANKFUL** for his time, wisdom,

leadership, and support of our athletic program. We wish him all the best as he looks forward to enjoying more time with the family and grandchildren. He will be dearly missed!



Penny Wars was a HUGE success! We are excited to be donating **\$3,422.21** to SDA Primary School in Ghana. Our 8th grade

students have been involved in a cultural exchange and fundraising program over the past year. Instead of renovating just one classroom, they will now be able to renovate the whole school! We look forward to receiving the photos and stories from the project to share with our students. Thank you, Mrs. Esser, for introducing this FUNdraiser to SJU and supporting our wish to follow Nano Nagle's example of giving and serving communities in need. It is a wonderful way to shine God's love in the world.

May = BUSY Around Here!

Well, just when you think you are in the homestretch of the school year and begin to dream of long relaxing walks on a sandy beach, the May calendar of events stops you right in your tracks! Some days feel like everyone is sprinting towards the finish line while other days feel like mile 20 in a marathon! Don't get me wrong, so many wonderful events have taken place in the last few weeks and many more are fast approaching. Each moment will quickly slip away so the challenge becomes being fully present to the individuals around us in order to appreciate the blessings found amidst the chaos.



During the first week of May, students began praying the rosary every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 7:30am. This tradition takes place every October and May. What a simple and a beautiful way to start the busy day ahead! There is serenity and peace when a group of children gather under the warmth and light of the sun to recite the rosary together, offering prayers up to God through the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

May Crowning is always special, and this year was no exception. As the lower grade students processed in with flowers, the eighth graders followed with reverence that was palpable. Voices were raised in the traditional songs of May as Mary was crowned. Following Mass the decades of the rosary were led by parishioners that attend Mass each day. These devoted men and women are our role models in faith.

Cinco de May was the day of First Communion. 36 second graders and 4 fourth grade students were joined by their families. Fr. Carlos gave a memorable homily on the importance of feeding our spiritual hunger. The students read and cantored beautifully, and the singing of *Fly Like a Bird* at the end of Mass expressed the depth of the students' faith in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Learning has been highlighted and displayed through the numerous presentations and projects completed by our students. Science projects, Picasso inspired self-portraits, solar system presentations, mission models, and state projects are a wonderful opportunity for students to put their learning and communication skills into practice. We also enjoyed the Sky Dome presentation that allowed all students to experience the solar system in a whole new way. Lifelong learning is a journey that requires a lot of hard work, but we can also have fun doing it!

New families to St. Joseph School received a warm welcome during their orientation meeting thanks to the support and presence of our friendly office staff, Development Committee and PTG members. We look forward to our new families' enthusiasm and support. We also wrapped up registration meetings with all returning families. While I don't think I was fully prepared for the mental and physical energy sitting for 3 days required, I do believe it is important to have the opportunity to meet and check in with every family, so we can hear what is working and areas we can improve on. Thank you for your patience and cheerfulness despite the long wait times. It was uplifting to hear the cheers and laughter outside the door. Everyone working together is what makes St. Joseph School the wonderful place that it is.

Thank you to our 1st grade families for hosting the delicious faculty luncheon on May 4th.

TRACK & FIELD volunteers were a wonderful support to Mr. B and all the athletes. We appreciate all the parents went to practices and meets to cheer, supervise, and coach students in the various events.



Prayer

Do you ever feel like you could use some help approaching God in your prayers? The Memorare is a prayer that reminds us we have a wonderful advocate and protector in the mother of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary.



In our prayers to her we honor and worship her Son, who is more than happy to listen to His mother's pleas on our behalf.

The Memorare

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

PTG Fundraisers

FIRST ANNUAL NANO NAGLE WALK-A-THON!

This year 75% of the money you raise through pledges will go towards your obligation and 25% will help support our beloved Presentation Sisters. We hope you will also come out and walk with us. Kona Ice will be there. Will you?

Reminders

***Don't forget to donate to His Hands during the summer!**

***Check your local library for summer reading programs! READ! READ!**

Sr. Mary Kelly was so touched by the love and support she received from her St. Joseph School family last Friday as she received the Our Lady of Guadalupe Award from Rev. Bishop Barnes. To have students, families, and alumni present to cheer and share the special moment with her made it memorable. We are lucky to have such an inspirational, caring, selfless, and kind role model of faith among us. A complete stranger walked up to Sr. Mary afterwards and told her they could see she is loved by many. We truly adore her and are blessed to have had her leadership for so many years.



Amidst all of the excitement, traditions, and celebration, we begin to face the reality of having to transition, whether it be into a new grade level, or having to say "goodbye" to friends, teachers, families, and the school that has become home over the years. The Day Away retreat for 8th graders and their parents was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the important role of family, friends, and faith during times of transition. These three pillars are critical in the development of each student and we know they are nurtured during a student's time at St. Joseph School. We look at our kindergarten class and see the tremendous growth over the year and the newly established friendships that comforted them on the days when letting go of a parent's hand or leg were difficult. Some tears will be shed over the next few weeks, but many will be of great joy for the memories created.

Every student has their own story of how they experienced the year, all of which include moments of success and challenge. What is important to remember is that it required collaboration, hard work, faith, love, patience, kindness, and respect for self and others. Families volunteered countless hours, supported fundraisers, and participated in the many beautiful traditions that bind us together as a community. These shared experiences become the memories we cherish in our hearts. In the busiest of times we find hidden treasures such as the words of encouragement that kept us going, the smile that lifted our spirits, or the individuals we lean on from the village of people we call our St. Joseph School family. I am grateful for the month of May and look forward to planning the relaxing days at the beach soon, but probably not until June.

*Many blessings,
Mrs. Alamo-Ng*



Mark Your Calendars...

Wednesday, May 23rd- Sports Awards Assembly at 1:30pm; Add class color to uniform

*We will be honoring Mr. Grant during the assembly.

Friday, May 25th

- Nano Nagle Walk-a-thon; add class color to PE uniform (grades 3-5 will add class color AFTER Mass); bring your reusable water bottle; gat and sunscreen recommended
- Noon Dismissal
- 5-9pm- 8th Grade Dance

Monday, May 28th- NO SCHOOL in observance of Memorial Day

Thursday, May 31st

- "Finding Mable's Memory"- 3rd Trimester Performing Arts students present their final project in the Presentation Hall at 10:15am. We hope you can join us for the last show of the year!
- School Board Meeting 6-7pm

Friday, June 1st

- All School Mass at 8:30am
- Flag- New Student Council Installation & Yearbook Committee Thank You
- Noon Dismissal

Thursday, June 7th- 8th Grade Events

- 8th Grade Families Gathering 7:00-8:30am
- Prayer Service & Scholarships 9:00-11:00am
- Graduation Baccalaureate Mass 7:00-8:30pm

Friday, June 8th- Kindergarten Graduation at 9am

Thursday, June 14th- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

- Noon Dismissal- NO ESC

Don't forget to check our website for current events and updated school information at

www.stjosephupland.org.

