



# St. Joseph School Principal's Newsletter



## A Prayer for Mothers

by [Jisha](#)

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.



Come pray the Rosary with us on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 7:30am during the month of May.



5/16-5/18 Registration in the library (see calendar on website for times); first come, first served basis

5/16 Fatima Tour for Peace visits SJU 8am (Rosary and Presentation)

5/17 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Day Away Retreat

5/23 Walk-a-thon

5/24 Noon Dismissal; Graduation Dance 5pm

5/27 NO SCHOOL for Memorial Day

## Mary: A human like us; a model of a Christ-centered life

In a school play about the life of Jesus, several of the actors had to memorize a line or two from scripture. One of the actors got stage-fright and couldn't remember his line. He caught his mother's eye and she mouthed the line: "I am the light of the world." With a huge smile on his face the boy declared: "My mother is the light of the world."

Catholics have as their universal mother, the Virgin Mary the mother of Jesus who truly could claim to be, "the light of the world". Because Jesus had a human and a divine nature which cannot be divided, Mary holds the title of Mother of God.

Often Catholics are accused of praying to Mary as if she was a goddess of sorts. But we have a saying, "To Jesus through Mary", which indicates that we pray through Mary as our intercessor who prays to God on our behalf. Because Mary was "favored by God" (Luke 1:30), when she was personally chosen to become the mother of Jesus, we believe that we have a greater chance of obtaining God's graces by asking Mary to intercede for us. When Mary told her cousin, Elizabeth, of her pregnancy, she stated, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46). Mary is stating that Jesus is magnified by her soul.

From the earliest days of Christianity, Mary has been perhaps the principal figure depicted on Icons. The Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches are where most of the Icons had their origin and where they are still venerated. The Icon with which we are most familiar, is that of Our Lady of Perpetual Help which emerged from Crete in the last half of the 15th Century. Dr Margaret Ghosn in her work, "The Iconic Mary", gives an insight into the significance of the Mary image in Icons, when she writes: "Mary symbolizes many images including maternal presence, affection, protector, guide, intercessor, holiness and above all the Mother of God. Mary is called 'blessed among women' (Luke 11:27) because of her 'yes' in faith, 'let it be done to me according to your word' (Luke 1:38), which brought Jesus into the world. Mary calls to mind the words of St Paul, 'It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me' (Gal. 2:20). While Mary is the Savior's Mother, it is as his faithful disciple that she serves as the primary model of a Christ-centered life. Like Mary, we uncover the secret of who we are on discovering Christ at the center of our lives."

Mary's human life helps her to be a bridge between earth and heaven helping us all to see what is possible. It is possible to be born poor into a simple life yet achieve mightily in life. It is possible to be uncertain about ourselves, experience fear when opportunities arise and then accept with courage what is offered to us. It is possible to persevere through times of sorrow and disappointment and to keep our trust in God. It is possible to live our lives in hope, trusting that God's spirit will be with us in all we do.

The Easter prayer "Regina Caeli" or "Queen of Heaven", which dates back to the 13th Century, illustrates the Christian tradition of "To Jesus through Mary":

"Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia. For he, whom you were worthy to bear, Alleluia, has risen as He said. Alleluia. Pray for us to God. Alleluia. God, who by the Resurrection of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, has been pleased to give joy to the world, grant we ask You, that



5/30 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Performing Arts students perform 10:30am in Presentation Hall  
5/31 LAST ALL SCHOOL MASS & FLAG; Full day of instruction

### June

6/6 Graduation Day for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
6/7 Graduation Day for Kindergarten  
6/12 Last Day of School; Flag at 8:15am; Noon Dismissal; NO ESC

6/13 SUMMER VACATION BEGINS!



**THANK YOU** to our generous and thoughtful PTG for hosting breakfast and lunch throughout Teacher & Staff Appreciation week. We definitely felt the LOVE! The decorated doors were also so creative and enjoyed by all.

**THANK YOU** to ALL the students and families who went out of their way to make teachers and staff feel appreciated and **loved** throughout the week!

LOVED and BLESSED



**THANK YOU** to Boys Scouts Pack 600 Den 6 and their families who cleaned classrooms for our teachers last weekend. **THANK YOU** also to the hardworking parents who power washed the large windows & new building area, scrubbed stains off the cement, pulled weeds, and helped spruce up the place for upcoming GRADUATION events. We appreciate it **VERY MUCH!**

through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of eternal life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

As end of the school year quickly approaches, the level of excitement exudes from students and staff as we dream of sunshine and no alarm clocks. Amidst the enthusiasm many pause to reflect on the beautiful traditions we have shared in recent weeks and give thanks for our families, friends, and St. Joseph School faith community.

Last weekend, the second-grade class received for the first time the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. They were so confident, and their love of Christ radiated through their smiles as they prayerfully and confidently walked up onto the altar to receive the Body of Christ before their families and friends. I pray their excitement is nurtured by Jesus’ love and presence through the sacred meal week after week for a lifetime.

So many expressed gratitude for the retreats and preparation leading up to the special day. We are blessed to have Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Gutierrez, Sr. Mary, Miss Brown, and all the parents who supported the students through their preparation and all who prayed over them as they journeyed together over the last few months.



May Crowning was also a beautiful celebration of our Blessed Mother, surrounding her image with the fragrance and bright colors of spring’s first blooms presented by our students. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders also looked refined in their best Sunday dress and did a wonderful job leading us in the liturgy. 8<sup>th</sup> grader Jenna Fox, accompanied by Axel Zavala and Kindergartner Ryan Ruiz crowned the statue of Mary as we were reminded how she intercedes on our behalf and brings our prayers to God the Father. Immediately following the Mass, each decade of the rosary was led by various members of our faith community- students, teachers, parents, parishioners, and our beloved Presentation Sisters. I was moved to tears recognizing the tremendous blessings God places in our lives each day and felt the power of prayer.

We are so proud of our alumni and their ongoing accomplishments and appreciate all of their visits to their SJU home. Before Easter break, Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Bowen led a team of SJU alumni through the planning the bi-annual school retreat. Mr. Sullivan wrote a beautiful article for Damien High School describing the experience. I encourage you to take a few moments to read it. You can find it on our website or go to this link

<http://stjosephupland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Article-on-Retreat3.pdf>.



On April 16<sup>th</sup>, four of our seventh-grade students were honored with scholarships from Pomona Catholic High School and Damien High School. We are so proud of Vance Sullivan, Austen Straite, Rachel



Cortes, and Katherine Skeers for their academic success, service to others, and strong display of Catholic values. We are also proud of all the students who represented St. Joseph School at the Robotics Competition at Damien High School on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. SJU teams received several awards along with overall 1<sup>st</sup> place!



The upcoming weeks will bring many opportunities to celebrate our graduating eighth grade and kindergarten classes. It is always bitter sweet as we remember fond memories from years past and look forward to new their adventures. Yearbooks will be signed, laps will be walked, new student council members will be voted in, final assessments will be taken, and desks will be cleaned. May God guide and strengthen the bonds of friendship and calm the excitement just enough for us to enjoy the chaos and do our BEST to wrap up the school year.

Many blessings,  
Mrs. Alamo-Ng



The HIPPO Sac sale raised \$372.00 to help start our school garden! **THANK**

**YOU** to all who sold bags for this cause and Clarissa Trejo for bringing this opportunity to SJU. The recycling of plastic bottles also brought in \$181.22, for a grand total of \$553.22. Way to go Vikings!



**THANK YOU** to the 1st grade families for hosting this month's faculty luncheon before

our meeting. The Taco Guy was a lovely idea and the food was delicious!



## St. Joseph School

905 North Campus Ave.  
Upland, CA 91786  
[www.stjosephupland.org](http://www.stjosephupland.org)



## CONGRATULATIONS &



Our School Board, Development Committee, and PTG welcome new parents for the 2019-2020 school year. Thanks to those who have graciously stepped up to serve on these boards which support administration, ongoing planning and organizing of various events and fundraising efforts.

**School Board-** Madge Arafol, Nicole Mehas, and Kelly Stilkey

**Development Committee-** Stacy Fanchin, Angela Gareis, and Clarissa Trejo

**PTG-** Rose Alvarez, Gracie Arroyo, Stacy Fanchin, Rose Galvan, Anna Marie Iletto, and Terrie Wilson

We also express our **GRATITUDE** to all the current members who continue to serve on these committees.

**New Families Orientation was earlier this week. Thanks to the office staff, Development Committee, and PTG for welcoming our new families with a lovely spread of treats and presenting key information for a successful school year.**

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## Our Mission Statement

*St. Joseph School fosters Catholic values and invites students to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. The school community educates the whole child to become a responsible and vibrant member of the Church and helps the students live their faith in a larger society.*