

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

For unto us a Child is born... Unto us a Son is given. –Isaiah 9:6



Gratitude Corner

To all the families who have donated food, coats, and toys for the His Hands Holiday Drive, we appreciate your support in demonstrating to our students the importance of giving to others during the Advent season.

Thank you to all the parents who have participated in school fundraisers and SCRIP program this year. Selling those candles, chocolates, bags, and cookie dough really makes a positive difference in our ability to offer the best programs to our students.

We have a fabulous group of SCRIP volunteers that come in regularly to help fulfill all of the orders. Thank you to Gretchen Ferguson, Joann Gustin, Mary Ramirez, Brona Salazar, Virginia Umali, and Jonah Nugraha. We couldn't do it without you!

Thanks to our parent elves who have sprinkled Christmas joy throughout the office and teacher's lounge over the past few weeks. Your giving spirit has brightened the smiles on our faces.

We Wait and We Long

We wait and we long for you, O God.
Yet, we question whether we are worthy of your coming.

We wait and we long for you, O God.

But we grow restless in the waiting- impatient with your sense of timing.

We wait and we long for you, O God.

Yet we fear the majesty of your return- for truly the heavens would break open, and the mountains quake in your presence.

And we, we would see ourselves as we truly are.

Yet we wait and we long for you, O God.

For we dare not miss the day, the hour, the moment.

And while we wait, we trust- for you are a loving creator who touched the earth, and consecrated the ground of our being.



–Anita M. Constance, S.C.

As the time draws closer to the days when we will gather with family and friends to celebrate traditions that bring us great joy, may we find moments to pause and reflect on why these gatherings mean so much to us. You might be thinking, “How is it even possible to push the pause button when there is so much to be done?” We busy ourselves with choosing just the right gifts, preparing a delicious feast, and tidying up our homes for our loved ones. However, we sometimes lose sight of that fact that it is our love, our generosity, and time spent together that will be remembered most. The toys and electronics seem to lose their gleam after the first set of batteries die or the latest and greatest version is advertised for release.

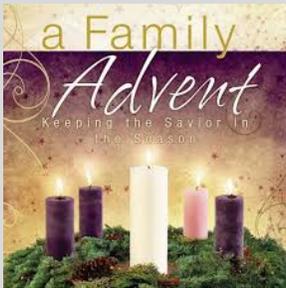
The birth of Jesus Christ is a sign of God's love and gift to the world. We wait and long for this time of year because of the people with whom we look forward to spending time. God's loving presence is among us when we are gathered with family and friends. It will be the games played, stories shared, and memories made that we will carry in our hearts for years to come. The celebration of family, Christ's birth, and God's love are what we long for the most at this time of year.

May you be filled with the love, joy, and peace of Christmas in your homes and be blessed with laughter and good health in the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Mrs. Alamo-Ng

More Gratitude

Thank you to our 3rd grade families for putting on a beautiful faculty luncheon in December.



Family Prayer

Dear God, thank you for giving us these four weeks to prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son.

We are so thankful for all the people that help us along this path we're traveling to welcome Jesus.

God, bless our family and prepare our home and hearts to welcome your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

Amen.

PTG Fundraising



GALA
March 17, 2018
Volunteers are still needed.
Please contact

Sophia Robles at 626-393-5135 if you are able to help.

Ads and donations are due **2/22/18**. \$\$ helps go towards your obligation. We need everyone's support to make our largest school fundraiser a HUGE success!

Student Spotlight

On Saturday, December 9th twenty-four of our 7th and 8th grade students represented St. Joseph School in the Damien Mathematics Competition. We had twelve students receive individual awards and two received scholarships in the amount of \$250.00. Our teams placed 1st and 2nd in the 7th grade overall competition, and another team placed 3rd for the 8th grade category. We are so proud of our students for working hard and collaborating during the various events in the competition. Go Vikings!



Upcoming Events...

- **All-School Advent Mass this Sunday, December 17th at 9:00am**
The intention for the Mass is for the repose of the soul of Anita Gasaway, a 7th grade parent who passed away last year. It would be lovely if we came together as a school community to celebrate an Advent Mass and pray for the Gasaway family at this time of year.
- **Wednesday, December 20th** is a minimum day with NO ESC after school. Students may also ADD **RED** and **GREEN** to their full uniform.
- December 21st - January 2nd NO SCHOOL for Christmas Break
- **School resumes on Wednesday, January 3rd.**
- After-school clubs and STEM enrollment forms will be accepted beginning January 3rd - January 12th, 2018. We will have Drama and Master Builders on Tuesdays and STEM on Thursdays. Please make note of the grades specified for each club/class to ensure you are enrolling your child in the correct class.
- **Catholic Schools Week will be January 28 - February 2, 2018.** On **Tuesday, January 30** we will host a 24 hour online giving campaign. The goal will be to raise money for our technology infrastructure to improve the internet reliability as we add more Chromebooks in more classrooms. We will be sending out the link in early January for you to share with all of your family and friends who are interested in supporting Catholic Schools and St. Joseph School in particular.

Bishop's Endowment Fund

The Bishop's Endowment Fund applications are now available in the school office for families in need of tuition assistance. **Please be aware there are strict guidelines regarding documentation and deadlines.** We encourage you to pick up the application as soon as possible.

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