



"God does not want any of his children to suffer evil. Why these tragedies happen — we will never know, on this side of eternity," said Archbishop Jose Gomez last Thursday during a prayer vigil. "What we do know," he continued, "is that God's love for every one of us is stronger than any evil, stronger even than death."

May we continue to pray for victims and families of last week's violent shooting in Thousand Oaks and all those experiencing loss due to California fires.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **11/15** Senior Thanksgiving Dinner 12-2pm
- **11/16** Presentation All School Mass 8:30am
- **11/19-11/23** NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
- **11/28** End of Trimester 1
- **12/3-12/7** Book Fair in Library
- **12/4-12/6** Parent Teacher Conferences; Noon Dismissal
- **12/7** All School Mass, Flag, and Noon Dismissal
- **12/9** Advent All School Mass 9AM at St. Joseph Church
- **12/14** Christmas Program 6:45pm (Students in classrooms by 6pm)

St. Joseph School Principal's Newsletter

Grateful for Kindness

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

Giving thanks for the many blessings in our lives seems to come naturally to us during this time of year. We seek opportunities to help those in need by donating to various charities and causes in thanksgiving for the blessing of "plenty and enough" in our lives. Over the last few weeks, our students have reflected on the lives of the saints and Nano Nagle as models of faith, Christianity, and sacrifice. The students' own stories of helping friends in need, giving to the poor, prayer, and shining Christ's love through daily acts of kindness remind us just how easy kindness inspires others to do the same and how wonderful it is to be on the receiving end of someone else's generosity and care.



In her book, *The Black Dress: Mary Mackillop's Early Years*, Pamela Freeman has this rather delightful image to put into our minds: "Poor little sad soul! Sister Aloysius sent him to me that first week. I was standing in the playground, looking down at the mangroves and the bay, relishing the fresh salt air. Mick, his name was, came sidling up to me reluctantly, eyes down, terror in every movement.

'Sister says I have to tell you,' he said in a quavering voice.

He gulped. 'I stole a bun in the kitchen.' God love him! I almost laughed. But I put my arm around him. 'Were you hungry?' He nodded. He was twisting his hands together in a combination of misery and fright. That movement alone told of months of abuse and fear.

'Well, you go back to Sister and tell her I said to give you another bun.'

His head came up, astonished, and he met my eyes for the first time. I smiled. He grinned and hugged me hard and raced off to Sister Aloysius, leaping as he went. Then, I did laugh."

Mary Mackillop's action towards little Mick was one of total kindness. A century later, Mother Teresa made a statement so relevant to Mary Mackillop's action when she said, "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness, kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile."

The tragic events of last week and ongoing reports of injustice and violence in our communities highlights the ugliness of our humanity. Where do we turn to for hope? How do we teach our children to stay faithful through so much pain and hurt? Every story of heartache, pain, struggle, violence, and tragedy is met with the opportunity to engulf each situation with LOVE. Searching for the stories of how communities come together to support those that are hurting, suffering in poverty, experiencing great loss, and fighting for justice leads us to the countless acts of kindness shown in difficult times. Our faith in God and examples of the saints who have come before us remind us of our call to serve God and others. When we follow His path of love, we clearly see how each person changes the world for the better, even if it is just for a moment in time and in the world and reality of the individual in our presence. Hope comes from bearing witness to kindness. As St. Paul wrote, "Be kind and compassionate to one another." Eph. 4:31,32.

As we sit around our Thanksgiving table, may our prayers include...

God our Father, we thank you for your "random act of kindness" that enabled us to have the children we do. Help us to establish kindness in our household, so it is found in our words, our attitudes and behaviors. Amen.

In gratitude for your support, faith, generosity and prayers,

Mrs. Alamo-Ng



Thank you to all of our US veterans for their service.



Thank you to the SJU Development Committee, volunteers, the Bestard Family, 8th grade students, Scouts, alumni, families, and friends of St. Joseph School for their support of the Development BBQ last month! It was GREAT to see everyone smiling, eating, and enjoying time together despite the gray clouds and drizzle! Let us give THANKS for our amazing school community.

Thank you to the Scouts Troop #600 for leading the Presentation of the Colors during our Veterans Day Flag Ceremony. We also appreciated having all of SJU scouts in uniform, singing by our school choir, and the presence of the Knights of Columbus.

Thank you to the 2nd class families for hosting a delicious and thoughtful faculty luncheon last week. It was lovely to enjoy the meal together.



St. Joseph School Choir performs Friday, Nov. 30 at 7PM in the Church.



Come enjoy a night of beautiful Christmas music by all the parish choirs.



Join Sr. Mary in reflection & discussion on *The Mass* series by Bishop Robert

Barron Monday mornings at 8:15am in the new building. It will change how you experience the Eucharist & Mass.

GO VIKINGS! SJU Sports Corner



CONGRATULATIONS to all our football and volleyball teams for their hard work, great sportsmanship, and pride in representing SJU. We look forward to learning who will be in the playoffs this upcoming weekend- Nov 17-18!

Our Community

2nd Grade Saints Projects



Our second graders have spent the last several weeks learning about the saints. They culminated their learning with a written report, poster, and oral presentation.

This project has become a greatly anticipated tradition and lives as a wonderful memory in the hearts of SJU alumni. This learning experience not only provides students with the opportunity to develop speaking and listening skills, but also to learn about the great love of Christ each saint through daily actions and the great sacrifice they made for their faith.



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ALL YOU SAINTS OF GOD, PRAY FOR US.

Holiday Donation Drives

SJ Parish His Hands Food Pantry and Mary's Mercy Center are in need of socks, gloves, hats, blankets, and toys. Please bring what you can between now and Dec 7 to help those in need.



What is...

Presentation Day?

Answer: Liturgical feast celebrated on Nov.21 to remember Mary being presented to God into the Temple by her parents Joachim and St. Anne.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception?

Answer: Celebrated on Dec. 8, is the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the students who participated in the annual **Damien Math Competition!** We are proud of their individual and collective accomplishments, talents, and effort.



FOLLOW US on [facebook](#) @stjosephvikings and [@stjosephschoolgala](#) for all the latest events.



PTG FUNDRAISING & HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Popcorn and See's Candy sales are a great way to earn \$ towards your obligation AND shop for holiday gifts for loved ones. Don't miss out!



St. Joseph School

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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.

