ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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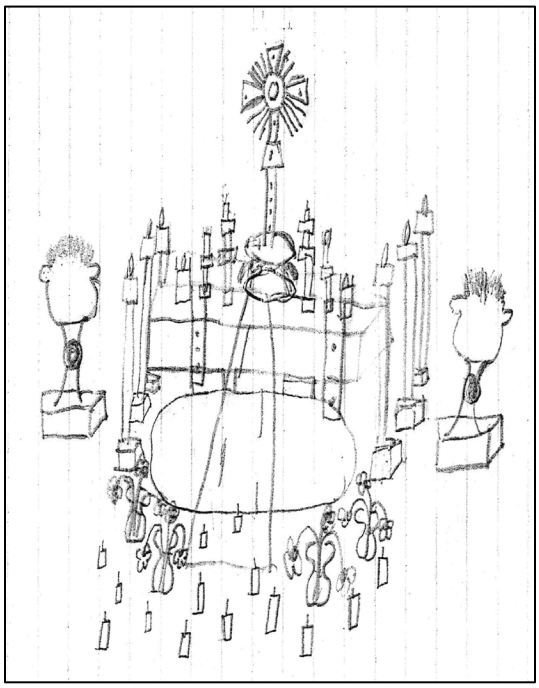
WEEKLY WATCH

Spiritual Mothers

I had just finished a phone call when a loud knock came to my door.

I was surprised to see a 5th grade boy standing there with a notebook. “I wanted to show you something.” He proceeded to open up the notebook and show me a beautiful picture he had drawn while in adoration yesterday. Since it was a Parish Adoration day, he had captured the white cloth streaming down from the monstrance, along with the candles and the flower vases strewn about on the steps below.



Of course, I made a great fuss over it, asked if I could make a copy to hang in my office, and had him sign it. Then, I went to the adoration chapel to make my daily visit to Jesus before lunch. As I knelt there, I asked Jesus, “Why did he want to show me his picture?” He may have already shown his classmates and/or his teacher, but why did he make a point to come down to the office and show me as well? It wasn’t like I have a close connection with this boy. But then I realized, it’s because of my spiritual motherhood.

It’s easy to forget, in the day-to-day, my deeper purpose for being in this school. Yes, I work with schedules, and organize meetings, and put out fires, and do a thousand and one other necessary items to help the school to run more smoothly and to support teachers. But behind it all, I am called to be a spiritual mother. I may not know every student in the same way that their physical mothers do, but I still hold them in my heart and pray and sacrifice for them. Even more so – however limited I am in actually doing so – I am called to remind them of their heavenly Mother Mary and of her maternal love for them.

Tomorrow, I look forward to my own spiritual mothers coming to our school! The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, who helped in the foundation of St. Joseph School and of our Community, are sending two Sisters to Nebraska for the weekend to celebrate the 50th Jubilee of the School Sisters of Christ the King. Sister Mary Ellen, their general superior, and Sister John Evelyn, her first assistant, will be coming to Mass in the morning and stopping in the school for a short visit. (If you are not aware, Sister John Evelyn was one of the three “pioneers” who opened St. Joseph School in 1979. She and Sister Joseph Fidelis and Sister Mary Lorraine, poured their hearts and their lives into this school and parish to provide the beautiful foundation on which we

stand today.) To have the IHMs with us, and recall the sacrifices they made then and the sacrifice they are making to be with us now, is a reminder of the great love and support that spiritual mothers provide for us.

I pray that you are able to recall, and express gratitude for, those who have been spiritual mothers to you. And may all of us recognize more deeply the role that our greatest spiritual mother, Mary, plays in our lives.

May God bless you!

In the Heart of the King,

Sister Mary Angela, CK.

Sister Mary Angela, CK

BIST Tip: "I can make good choices, even if I am mad (or have an overwhelming emotion)."

This BIST Goal for Life really gets down to the nitty gritty of involving the will over the emotions. Children, and even some adults, think that what they feel makes their reality. However, it can be very freeing to realize that a difficult emotion like anger or sadness does not need to paralyze me or cause me to react in negative ways. Coupled with this goal is giving the child options and tools for dealing with the strong emotion, such as deep breaths, a quiet place to calm down or simply a couple minutes to process what is going on. By teaching children to work with their emotions and still choose what is right, we are empowering them to regulate their behavior and respond to difficulties in life; something that we all need at times!

Reminder-Dine Out with St. Joseph School!

St. Joseph SFA is hosting the first **Dine-Out Night at Chick-fil-A (4770 O Street) TONIGHT!!** Scan the QR code to download the Chick-fil-A app, place your order, and **20% comes back to St. Joseph School**. Pick up your meal in the drive-thru or inside. Dining in? SFA volunteers will be on-site to help you order through the app.

Mission Collection

Thank you, school families, for supporting our first MCA collection of the year! We collected $389.93! Way to go St. Joseph!

Traffic Safety – PLEASE READ!

Drop off and pick up are generally going well, but a few reminders can help to keep our students safe!

- Remember to drive ***S L O W L Y*** as you near the school or in the parking lot and watch carefully for students.
- Always dismiss and pick up **at the curb** unless you walk your children to or from the building. This avoids children darting through cars unexpectedly.
- We strongly urge all families to use the pick-up lanes after school. However, if you choose to park along a side street, please **stay along the school side** so children do not need to cross the street. We've had some close calls due to this and would hate to have a child get hurt!

- Please do not park in the rectory driveway.
- If you are in a hurry, please remember to be courteous, as we put safety first and everyone is doing their best.
- Lines move fastest when **cars always pull up as far as they can** to either drop off or pick up, and everyone appreciates this.
- Walkers should always use crosswalks and look both ways before crossing. Siblings should travel together for greater visibility.

A Note from the Nurse

St. Joseph school will no longer be providing cough drops to students. Our updated cough drop policy is that students should send a labeled bag to the nurse's office if they have an active cough. This is due to the fact that cough drops contain menthol and present a choking hazard. We went through far too many cough drops last year and are trying to limit their use for acute illnesses. Thank you for understanding.

Katie Beck, L.P.N.
St. Joseph School Nursing Staff

Picture Orders Due!

Picture Orders are due **Friday, September 18th.** You can order online or return the order envelope that came with your proofs to school. If you have more than 2 students you can use the Family Plan and the first 2 students are full price and the rest are free. It works best to call in to the company to order when using the Family Plan. Picture Orders will arrive at school and be distributed to students via their classrooms. Teachers will send an email letting you know they are being sent home.

Walk for Christ 2026

Walk for Christ is St. Joseph School's annual direct donation fundraiser. The week begins Monday, September 28th with the walk on Friday, October 2nd. Please see the **event page** for details including Loved Ones Mass, fundraising goals, donation & petitions, incentives, Spirit Week, and ways to volunteer! **T-shirt order deadline is September 13th**. A WFC Parent Packet will be sent home with youngest/only students on **Thursday, September 24th.**

BARK FOR SCHOOLS

Dear Parents of 4th–8th Grade Students,

When schools give students access to devices and online accounts, an incredible world of learning opportunities opens up, as well as potential dangers. Digital safety is critically important to St. Joseph School, which is why we are now using **Bark for Schools** to help us protect our students both online and in real life.

Bark monitors for signs of potential issues like:

- Cyberbullying
- Suicidal ideation
- Sexual predators
- Threats of violence
- And more

Alerts at the First Signs of Danger

When potential dangers arise on school-issued accounts, Bark for Schools sends us alerts so we can address

the situation in a timely manner. These alerts also give us insights that help us promote the wellness of the entire student body. Parents and guardians can benefit from receiving these alerts as well.

Get Alerts with the Free Parent Portal
Kids use their school-issued accounts both at school and at home, and families are often in a better position to respond to urgent alerts after hours, on weekends, and during breaks. These are times when administration may not be available in the event of an emergency. In the coming days, you will receive an invitation to create your free account for the Bark for Schools Parent Portal. As soon as you opt in, you will start receiving after-hours alerts when Bark detects potentially time-sensitive issues.

Monitor Texts, Social Media, and More
Bark for Schools is free for both our school and for you. For even greater coverage, you can also sign up for Bark for Families, which monitors texts, chat, email, YouTube, and 30+ social media platforms for potential safety concerns. You can find out more about how Bark for Parents works **here**.

Violation Consequences
As stated in the St. Joseph Acceptable Use Policy, signed by every student and parent, "Any violation of Saint Joseph policies and regulations, these regulations, building guidelines, use agreements, handbook provisions or administrative orders or directives as issued from time to time on Computer Use by any Computer User as defined herein, including access to the Internet may result in removal of privileges, reporting enforcement agencies and additional disciplinary action, including possible expulsion of minors or students or termination of employment for staff members or employees." Such situations will be handled in a case-by-case basis.

Learn more about **Bark for Schools**, including their commitment to **student privacy**. If you have additional questions, please contact us by replying to this email. Thank you for your support as we strive to help keep our students safe online.

In Christ,
Kevin L. Naumann
Principal

Lunch/Recess Volunteers!

If you are up to date on your Safe Environment training, please consider signing up to volunteer for lunchroom and/or recess duty! Links are provided below, and we appreciate any help!
Lunchroom: Lunchroom Helpers
K, 1, and 2 Playground Helpers: K, 1st, & 2nd Grade Playground Helpers
3rd & 4th Grade Playground Helpers: 3rd & 4th Grade Playground Helpers
5th & 6th Recess Helpers: 5th & 6th Grade Recess Helpers
7th & 8th Grade Playground Helpers: 7th & 8th Grade Playground Helpers

School Adoration

We are so blessed to have Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday (barring funerals) from after Mass until Benediction! Classes sign up to pray on alternate weeks. However, we would love to have some adults help to cover open times in the schedule (15-60 min. slots). If you can possibly commit to a time weekly or every other week, it would help us make sure there is always someone present to adore Jesus in the monstrance. Please email Sister Mary Angela at **sr.mary-angela@cdolinc.net** if you have questions or would like to sign up for regular times. **All are welcome to join any time or come for 2:55 pm Benediction.**

Celebrate Football with SCRIP

Football is back! When you head out to watch your favorite game make sure to take SCRIP! We sell both Buffalo Wild Wings and Buffalo Wings and Rings $25. Fill out a form and send it to school with your child. We will fill your order the same day and send it home with your child. Simple! Text Kate with any questions: 402-314-1416. **DOWNLOAD THE ORDER FORM!**

Youth Ministry 26-27 Registration Now Open!

Registration is now open for all St. Joseph Youth Ministry groups. Click **HERE** to sign up! Even if you've registered in the past, make sure to re-register for the new season so you get the most up-to-date information for your current age group. Two events that are quickly approaching are the 6th-8th Grade Wilderness Mini Retreat on October 4th and the High School Verso l'Alto Retreat October 10th & 11th. See the images below for more info and click to register!

School Sisters of Christ the King 50th Jubilee!

School Sisters of Christ the King

50 Years of Joyful Fidelity to Christ the King: Great is His Faithfulness

UPCOMING EVENTS :

- **Sunday, August 23** - You are cordially invited to an open house for the new addition to our motherhouse, which includes our aging in place facility. The event will take place from 1:30-3:00 pm. at Villa Regina Motherhouse. No RSVP necessary.

- **Saturday, September 12** - **50th Jubilee closing event**
  - 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ with Bishop Conley;
  - 11:00 a.m. light reception in the Hall for all who attend

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

Pius X Thunderettes-Parent's Night Out