



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1940 S. 77TH ST, LINCOLN, NE 68506

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WEEKLY WATCH

Virtue of the Month

“What’s your name again?”

We have a lot of new students this year! Last year, I was finally starting to sense I could name every child in the school, Preschool-8th grade. Of course, we always get new preschool and kindergarten students every year, but this year we also have almost two dozen new children in other grades as well – that’s a lot of names! As I greet students coming in every morning, I have had to ask many of them to repeat their names for me so I can start to remember. It’s a good problem to have.

As I mentioned last week, I have been very encouraged by the positivity and unity in the school thus far. In addition, any of the new students I’ve asked about their experience have shared a response like, “I feel very welcome here.” That’s a great tribute to our children, our teachers, and to you, their parents, for instilling the virtue of hospitality and encouraging children to welcome others.

I was recalling the Virtue of the Month talk I gave to the children after Mass on Monday. (By way of reference, each month we focus as a school on a particular virtue, outlined by a program from the Nashville Dominicans called [Virtues in Practice](#). On a quiet Mass early each month, I share a few thoughts about that virtue with the children before they return to their classrooms.) This month is the virtue of Faith. Our definition is “Believing in God and all that He has revealed.” In many ways, it’s “easy” for children to believe in God because they are not so tainted by skepticism as adults can be. However, I don’t know about you, but I can easily take the gift of faith for granted and don’t often reflect that I need to actually grow in my faith.

I had asked two Jr. High boys as volunteers to come to the front of the church. In pointing to them, I asked the rest of the students, “Are they made in the image of God?” Of course, they answered yes. However, they were not born with the gift of faith. So, I asked the children when they received that gift. Again, they easily answered, “Baptism.” I then gave each boy an identical red balloon. “Think of this balloon as the gift of faith. As a baby, they have the gift when they are baptized, but they aren’t able to make it grow. But when you get older, you can increase your gift of faith by prayer, Mass, Confession, doing kind deeds, etc.” I asked one boy to blow up his balloon more with each example, while the other boy kept his flat. You get the point.

It’s easy to say, “I have faith,” but faith is not something stagnant. As disciples of Jesus, we need to continue growing in our faith to widen our capacity to also love and become who we were called to be. When your children welcome others, forgive others, pray, sacrifice, and show kindness and courtesy, these are all ways of actually becoming more faith-filled disciples. When we believe something, it causes us to act a certain way. If I am a “believer” of God and all He has revealed, it will show in my words and actions.

I encourage you to discuss as a family the various ways you live your faith and ways you can help it to grow in your hearts. Never forget that your witness as parents has the greatest impact on instilling in your children the values and virtues they will embrace. In closing, you may already be familiar with this recent article from the Institute for Family Studies called ["Passing the Torch: How Faith Moves Across Generations,"](#) but this simple excerpt sums it up well:

"Studies demonstrate that parental modeling, shared faith practices, and the quality of parent-child relationships are among the strongest predictors of adult religiosity. When faith is embedded in everyday routines through conversation, ritual, and visible commitment, children are more likely to internalize it as part of their enduring identity."

Thank you for your commitment to your children's faith and for allowing us to partner with you. May God bless you!



In the Heart of the King,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Mary Angela, C.K.".

Sister Mary Angela, CK

WELCOME - TO - ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL PART 2!



Blake H.



Elyse R.

BIST Tip: “I can be okay even if others are not okay.”

This is another of the BIST Goals for Life. It carries two meanings in the school setting. For some children, seeing others who are distressed, angry, or disobedient causes an empathetic response. They get preoccupied with why another is having a difficult time and find it hard to focus on their own work. In this case, if a teacher reminds them of this goal, it gives them permission to keep their attention on their own learning and let the teacher handle the child who is having difficulty. A second use of this goal involves how a child responds to another who is being unkind, rude or disrespectful. In this case, reminding him or her that we can be okay even if others are not helps them to see that, while the other child’s behavior is not acceptable, that child is “not okay” and needs some sort of redirection, but retaliating will not help the situation. Think of situations at home where your children may find it helpful to recall this Goal for Life.

No School Reminder

This is a reminder that there is no school on **Monday, September 7th for Labor Day!**

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.

Walk for Christ 2026

The **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 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.

Dine Out with St. Joseph School!

St. Joseph SFA is hosting the first **Dine-Out Night at Chick-fil-A (4770 O Street) on Thursday, September 10th!** 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.



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](#)

Monthly School Rosary

As a means of praying for the needs of our students and school families, St. Joseph School will be offering a monthly school Rosary. Parents are welcome to join as they are able. Dates and times are listed on the finalized [school calendar](#) on our website, with the first one being Tuesday, September 8th, Mary's birthday! Most of the times will be at 2:50 pm so family members can join us. Classes will participate as they are available, so be aware that some classes may be absent on a given month. May our Blessed Mother intercede for us and lead us closer to her Son, Jesus!

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.**

Parish Adoration 2026

"Blessed are the Poor in Spirit." (Matthew 5:3)

Join the parish family for Adoration! On the 2nd Wednesday of the month, Jesus will be exposed in the monstrance on the altar. Exposition will begin after the 8:15 Mass and will conclude with Benediction at 7:30 pm that evening (no 2:55 Benediction that day). Stop by to make a visit any time during the day. The formal holy hour will be from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Please consider joining us and spending time with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. **Our first date is September 9th!**

SAC/SFA Update

This summer, school and parish leadership evaluated our committee structures to ensure we operate as efficiently as possible. Following discussions with Fr. Buhman, Sister Mary Angela, and Mr. Naumann, we have decided to dissolve the School Advisory Committee (SAC) and transition its work into the School Family Association (SFA). Combining these efforts will improve overall alignment, increase mission effectiveness, and maximize leadership and volunteer time. We are currently working out the logistics for this transition to ensure a smooth handoff of ongoing initiatives. While SAC is ending as a standalone group, its core work will continue within the SFA. If you have any further questions, feel free to reach out to Craig Pytleski, former chair of the SAC. Thank you!

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 it out and send 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!](#)

Tin Can Phones

We now have a St. Joseph Community for Tin Can phones! Tin Can is a Wi-Fi landline that lets kids call approved friends, grandparents, and family. It is a retro-style phone that plugs into the wall with no screens. Parents can manage who calls in or out via a parent app, so there's no worries about unsolicited calls. There is no cost to use the phone after the initial purchase if you want to call other tin cans (and there is an optional monthly service fee if you want the phone to call anyone.) Right now, if you order through our St. Joseph - Lincoln Tin Can Community, you will get the group discount: <https://tincan.kids/pages/community/st-joseph-lincoln>. Select your quantity and colors and place your **order by September 9**. The more families who order, the bigger the discount for everyone. Have additional questions? Contact Laura Gonnerman at 402-540-1386 or by email at lgonnerman@nebraska.edu.

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