

May 25, 2017

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The St. Jude Flyer

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13)

Letter from Sister Cecilia Joseph, Principal

Dear Parents,

This year we reflected upon the theme "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). This year has been filled with numerous graces, gifts, and lessons learned. We have indeed turned to Jesus at each moment of our day to gain strength for each step of the journey in discerning what He wanted us to do, how He wanted us to respond, etc. His presence has filled our halls, our classrooms, our offices, our gym, and our school during this year.

We began this year together on August 17, 2016. In looking back over these 10 months, I pray that each of us can recognize how God has worked in our lives and how we have grown closer to Him. Heaven is our goal. Let us continue to keep our eyes fixed on the reason we are here.

At the end of the year, there is one thing that fills my heart: gratitude. Some families shared with us what they are grateful for in looking over the past year:

- Teachers and students who do good deeds that may go unnoticed.
- The love and care we see in our child's heart during difficult times.
- Prayers from teachers and students for our family when we are in need of them.
- We are grateful for the welcoming people and atmosphere we have found at the school with the staff and fellow parents. It's hard when you are new, but we felt right at home.
- We have learned a greater dependence on God and to let others help us. Also to keep our eyes open for the ways God is allowing us to help others everyday in large and small ways.
- Having the opportunity to attend to a Catholic school and receive a great lesson. Also, learning to love Jesus.
- My family is grateful for many, many things. One the most important is that our son has received his First Communion and our family is super blessed. He has learned a lot through the entire year.
- We are grateful for the teachers who spend countless hours individualizing plans. We are grateful for new friends and new music to our ears.
- As a family we are grateful for the hard work of St. Jude's teachers, the Sisters and Father Michael. Also, we are grateful for Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Claudia for all their help throughout this year. We also appreciate the scholarship programs which help families like ours attend St. Jude. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.
- We are grateful for our principal and the teachers, all of whom are very dedicated and kind individuals! For parents and other family members who volunteer for school programs and activities. They give of themselves so these programs can excel. Watching my son mature into a caring young man interested in helping others and making a difference in the community.
- We have come closer to the Lord with praying and quiet time to reflect. My family is grateful for being able to have an education for our daughter that makes her feel safe and secure. We are grateful for our St. Jude family, school and church.
- My family is grateful for the excellent education, awesome teachers and all the fun events. We should always be kind to others and be respectful. We learned not to be jealous and to not be lazy. How it's important to help others who are in need, but most importantly we learned to be a good Samaritan. The love for God and the love God has for us. Also, for not missing too many days of school. We are grateful to be able to attend St. Jude. We are thankful our daughter will be able to return to St. Jude next year, for the staff at St. Jude, for Father Michael. We are thankful for the time with Sr. Cecilia Joseph, all the wonderful things she did for the school and families. Sr. Cecilia Joseph has been a wonderful role model for our daughter and our family. An important lesson that I learned from my daughter this year is to "pay it forward." We know we have more lessons to learn as well.

Faculty Changes

At the close of this year, I wanted to let you know of some faculty changes. We will be sending off **Ms. Allison Lennon, Ms. Nanette Motschall, Mrs. Kimberly Marshall, and Mrs. Tish Azar**. We are extremely grateful for the gift of themselves that they have given to our school over the course of the time they have been at St. Jude. They are excellent teachers and they will be greatly missed. Father will be working with the Catholic Schools Office and the new principal to find teachers for Kindergarten, 3rd, 5th, and Technology.

Mrs. Claudia will also be taking some time off with the arrival of her baby boy at the end of August/early September. **Ms. Ana Mancera** will take Mrs. Claudia's place while she is away.

In addition, we are saying goodbye to someone who has helped our school in countless ways over the past six years, **Mrs. Janet Howat**. Sr. Mary Elizabeth wisely brought Mrs. Howat to St. Jude in 2011 to serve as Assistant Principal and Director of RtI. Our school needed someone to help meet the diversity of learning needs of students. St. Jude also needed a source of stability in leadership as the Dominican Sisters assumed the administration of the school (knowing that the sister's assignments change).

Over these years, Janet took the lead in curriculum planning, effectively instituting and directing professional learning communities, instructing teachers on standards based grading/report cards, staff professional development, and teacher formation. Janet also worked closely with local school districts to ensure tens of thousands of dollars in Title funds that have been used to purchase much needed learning resources for the school and funding for professional development. Further, Janet devoted much of her time each day working with students, individually or in small groups, to support their individual learning needs. Further, Janet developed our Teacher Assistance Team to work with teachers to meet the individual learning needs of our students.

Janet has led our curriculum mapping project for the past few years, working with teachers to map St. Jude's curriculum in Language Arts, Math, Religion, Writing, and Social Studies. She has implemented a data binder for each homeroom teacher to track student progress. She has trained teachers how to effectively use data to inform instruction. She has created and implements a K-8 writing program which has produced beautiful and talented writers. I could give multiple examples of other projects she has initiated at St. Jude to advance the mission of St. Jude Catholic School.

On a personal note, I came to St. Jude five years ago as a new principal. Janet has truly been a mentor to me over these five years. Daily we have talked through the needs of the school, problems, and how to advance the school forward in its mission. She will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mrs. Howat, for all you have done for the students and families of St. Jude, for the teachers, and for me. Our prayers go with you as you embark on the next adventure that God has planned for you.

8th Grade Awards

Last week we recognized our 8th grade students with special awards. We are very proud of them. Special congratulations go to:

- Class of 2017 Co-Valedictorians: Anna Lennon and Gabe Spesia
- Class of 2017 Salutatorian: Gerardo Ruiz
- Principal's Leadership Award: Anna Lennon
- Spirit of St. Jude Award: Ryan Seneker
- St. Vincent de Paul Award for Service: Anna Lennon
- St. Dominic Award for Excellence in Religion: Anna Lennon and Gabe Spesia
- St. Thomas Aquinas Award for Excellence in Mathematics: Ryan Seneker
- St. Paul Award for Excellence in Language Arts: Gabe Spesia
- St. Albert the Great Award for Excellence in Science: Nathan Peck
- St. Thomas More Award for Excellence in Social Studies: Frank Ryan
- St. Joseph Award for Excellent in Art: Gerardo Ruiz
- Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati Award for Excellence in Physical Education: Ryan Seneker
- Honor Roll (All As & Bs): Frank Ryan, Ryan Seneker, Bridgette Smith, Nathan Peck
- High Honor Roll (All As): Gerardo Ruiz, Anna Lennon, Gabe Spesia

Schedule for Last Day of School

Tomorrow we will have a special light breakfast from drop off time until 9AM Mass for any parents who would like to stay at school in the morning. This is a small way to say 'thank you' for your support throughout the year. All are invited to join us at the 9AM Mass in the church, followed by the End of the Year Awards at 10AM, with early dismissal at 11:30AM.

For dismissal, we will still have the regular car line in the parking lot. For parents who attend the awards ceremony, the students will return to their classroom. Parents who are present and would like to take their child home will remain in the gym. We will then call your child to the gym to meet you when we begin dismissal.

One final thank you

It has been a gift to walk with you on this journey of faith over the past 5 years. God has clearly been at work in this school, in your children, in the faculty and staff, and in your families. While it is always sad to leave a place, I am very excited to embrace the next adventure God has in mind for me in Sydney, Australia. You will remain in my prayers, especially during this time of transition. May God bless your journey with Him.

With prayers in Our Lady,
Sr. Cecilia Joseph, OP

Few notes:

All tuition accounts must be at a zero balance before May 26, 2017.

- ❖ **Uniform Sale at St. Jude School** - Monday, June 5th from 10am-3pm Dennis Uniform and Eich's will be here at St. Jude's for your ordering convenience. Used uniforms will also be available, there's a limited supply. If you have any old uniforms your children have outgrown please consider donating them back to the school, just bring them to the front office. Thanks!
- ❖ **School Supplies:** If you are interested in ordering a school supply kit for the next school year for your student, please stop by the school office and submit an order form and payment by May 26, 2017. Online ordering deadline is June 2nd. Go to www.shopttkits.com and use account #23621.
- ❖ **Manna Cards "Great Lakes Scrip Program":** Please register with Great Lakes Scrip for future gift card orders after May 28th. In today's envelope you will find a list of retailers and instructions on how to register. For any questions feel free to contact Jennifer at Jennifer08171970@yahoo.com.
- ❖ **Box Tops Collection** - We are always collecting BOXTOPS for education. Please send them to the school. Remember to collect them during the summer!
- ❖ **Church of Saint Jude Parish** cordially invites all families and friends to attend our Parish Picnic which will be held on school grounds. Please see flyer on the back page for details. Basket raffles and cash raffles are also being held \$1 per ticket. Hope to see you there!
- ❖ **Totus Tuus of Joliet** - Sign-up Today!! Take advantage of this great summer catechetical youth program. Totus Tuus will be taking place from June 10-16 at St. Jude. Enjoy a fun and energetic Catholic youth program taught by seminarians and college students throughout the Diocese of Joliet. Available for grades 1-6 & 7-12. Call 815-725-2209 and talk to Sarah.
- ❖ **Fishers of Men:** 4th Annual Diocese of Joliet, Catholic Men's Conference. Two dates have been scheduled, June 24th (featured speakers are Peter Herbeck, Pete Burak and Fr. Burke Masters) & May 24th (Rev. Dennis Paul & Fr. Burke Masters). See flyer for more information.
- ❖ **Lewis University RAD Camp** - Recreation Activities Day Camp is now taking registrations. Join other students, make friends, and have tons of fun. Please see the online flyer for more details and dates.
- ❖ **Summer Sports Camps** - Looking for summer sports camps that are faith filled? The Diocese of Joliet is hosting a baseball camp, soccer camp, and hockey camp. Visit this following website for more information and how to register: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/vocations/sectioncontent.php?secid=23>
- ❖ **Spirit Hockey Camp - Register! It is a 5 day camp** where leaders are built, hockey is played, & faith is strengthened. Father Burke Masters (Vocations Director for the Diocese of Joliet) and Bishop Paprocki (Bishop of Springfield) will both be in-attendance the week of the camp. Register at SpiritHockey.org. Dates: July 15-21. See the online flyer for details.

IMPORTANT DATES:

5/25 – Step Up Morning & Field Day @ 12pm

5/26 – Last Day of School & Report Cards & Dismissal @ 11:30AM

Parents Schedule: 7:50am-9am – light continental breakfast and coffee

9:00am-10:am- Mass

10:00am-11:30am-Student's Awards and Reports Cards