



A Message from Ms. Mallett

During this Advent Season, students and staff in Our Lady of Victory Preschool and Elementary Schools and Saint Josephs' Catholic Academy have been enthusiastically preparing for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our faith traditions remind us about Jesus' humble birth in a manger, and our Catholic schools provide all members of our Catholic learning communities with a wonderful opportunity to reflect together on the true meaning of Christmas. We are reminded to keep Christ close to us for He is our strength throughout our lives.

In our Catholic schools, students proudly display their faith in action. Whether it is by singing about the coming of our Saviour, organizing food drives, toy drives and clothing collections for those most vulnerable, or celebrating the Eucharist, our students demonstrate the true meaning of the season.

As your Saint Joe's Head of School, I thank you for choosing Catholic Education. Your support of our schools is a blessing that allows our students and staff to grow in the love of Christ.

Mr. Packer, Dr. Lorenz and I pray that the the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with peace and joy as you rejoice in our Savior's birth. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Saint Joe's Gives Back



Our Saint Joe's WolfPack Ambassadors helped support two families this Christmas season. The Saint Joe's community gave so generously to these families with presents for the children, meals for the families, and gift cards! The WolfPack Ambassadors went to Our Lady of Victory preschool and elementary school to help celebrate by ringing bells to bring in the Christmas season.



National Honor Society member Natalie Page made 60 goodie bags for her neighborhood and passed them out to spread some joy during this Christmas season! Each bag included candy canes, hot chocolate, snacks, and a handwritten note. Page even took extra precautions by sanitizing each individual bag to ensure her neighbors would be safe!



Athletic Updates & Information

For an update of our Winter athletics, go to [SJCAssports.org](https://www.SJCAssports.org)

SAINT JOSEPH'S
WOLFPACK

Dear WolfPack Community,

The Athletic Department wants to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year! Please take some time over the holidays to relax and enjoy your family and friends, following Covid-19 guidelines that will allow for a safe and healthy holiday season!

Keep Up-To-Date: The PIAA announced that winter sports can resume on January 4, 2021. We will continue to update our Winter Schedules as needed. Please remember that www.SJCAssports.org is the "one stop shop" for all things sports and activities. Announcements, schedules, online registration, travel information, links to social media, and more can be found here. Please continue to visit <https://www.instagram.com/saintjoescatholicacad/> and

<https://twitter.com/goSJCAsports> to follow the happenings around campus.

Back the Pack: The Pack Athletics & Activities Committee (PAAC) meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in room 204, all are welcome. More information for ways to give can be found here <https://sjcasports.org/main/boosters/>. We are always looking for volunteers to help with Fundraising, Concessions/Gate, Golf Outing, Musical Raffle, and more. The group is currently on hiatus due to Covid-19 guidelines but hope that our meetings will start-up again soon.

Our programs cannot be successful without your support. Thank you for all your time and efforts. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me jrodkey@stjoeacad.org.

Blessings & Go WolfPack!
Dr. Justin Rodkey, Director of Athletics & Activities

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy Announces New Baseball Coaching Staff



Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy is pleased to announce the appointments of head baseball coach Ryan Hendrick along with assistant coaches Joey Ianiero, Jason Lucas, and Jay Nungesser.

Director of Athletics & Activities Dr. Rodkey believes the experience and diversity among the coaches will help to "create a positive and nurturing learning environment. The experiences and knowledge that each of our coaches offers will allow our players to develop and grow both on and off the field."

Coach Hendrick was an assistant baseball coach last year for the WolfPack and is taking the helm this year with over 12 years of coaching experience under his belt. He has coached in the State College Junior Spikes organization as well as the State College Teener League and Little League organizations.

Hendrick views this coaching opportunity as a way to "give back to a community that has given so much to me and my family. My entire life I have been involved in baseball in the State College area and Saint Joe's is the perfect place for me to continue my baseball journey. The student athletes' faith, ambitions, goals and desires match that of mine as a student, making Saint Joe's a perfect place for me to coach."

In the short-term, Hendrick hopes to create a strong interest in Saint Joe's baseball within the area. "To do so we will have a high energy, high intensity group of players that are motivated to be the best they can be both academically and scholastically. As we progress over the next few seasons Saint Joe's baseball will be recognized as a strong baseball program offering our players the opportunity to progress at a collegiate level if they so desire. Any good coach is always trying to get their players ready for that next level and our organization will do that for our student athletes, in a fashion that is consistent with the four pillars at Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy."

Joining the staff this season is Joey Ianiero. Ianiero not only brings in coaching experience, but his own playing experience as having been a second baseman on Rutgers University's baseball team (2007-2009) as well as Bloomsburg University's baseball team (2010-2011). He acquired the following honors while playing at the collegiate level: All

Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Second Team, National Writers Association All-Atlantic Region Baseball Team, and a member of the American Baseball Coaches Association All-Atlantic Region Baseball Team.

Coach Jason Lucas joins the WolfPack this year and brings with him an extensive baseball background as well. Lucas is from Florida and attended Westminster Christian Academy in Palmetto Bay, Florida. He was on the University of Florida Baseball team before an accident ended his baseball career. Lucas took his passion for baseball and threw himself into coaching the game. He has coached various baseball teams in Florida, girls softball in Pennsylvania, and gives one on one baseball training.

Rounding out the Saint Joseph's baseball staff is Jay Nungesser. Nungesser volunteered with the WolfPack in the past and will join the coaching staff this season as an assistant. Dr. Rodkey believes the future of Saint Joseph's baseball is "in good hands because these coaches understand that, outside of learning baseball, faith, scholarship, leadership, and service are the pillars that will help mold these young men to be the future leaders of tomorrow. Coach Hendrick and his staff are going to bring new perspectives, a renewed energy to the program, and ensure the players are having fun while working hard."

Development & Advancement

Joseph's Annual Fund Update and Still Time to Give!

Our Annual Fund Drive has now been underway since November and we sincerely thank everyone who has given to this year's Joseph Annual Fund Drive. We are happy to report that current contributions have now exceeded \$60,000! This has really helped us in light of not being able to hold our annual gala in the fall. We are so grateful for each and every person who has been *All In* for Saint Joseph's! You are directly impacting our students!



As you know this annual outreach process for our Joseph's Fund is the most important effort for us each year. During our essential Annual Fund Appeal we ask for your prayers, your involvement, and your financial support and participation. Your gifts not only support and provide for essential ongoing activities; they also make it possible for future students to experience this better educational opportunity. If you have not given yet, we ask you consider joining us in being *All In* for our current and future students. Each and every gift matters and counts toward success. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Robinson Fruchtl at 814-808-6118. Join us and be *All In* for Saint Joseph's!

Ways to Give

1. Download this QR Code with your phone and give now:



2. Give online at www.stjoeacad.org – click the **GIVE NOW** link at the top of the page

What's Next in the Development World?

Our Joseph's Annual Fund appeal for 2020-21 will not close out until June 30, 2021 so there is always an opportunity to give and be *All In* for Saint Joseph's! Here is a quick look at a few of the other appeals we are planning for the spring semester:

Named Scholarship Program

We will begin promoting this program starting in January 2021 – please look for more detailed information coming at that time. Named scholarships benefit qualifying Saint Joseph's students. To establish a Named Scholarship, a commitment of \$500 or more for a minimum of three consecutive years is required. This allows the donor(s) to work with the school to create the scholarship in their name or the name of someone they wish to honor. With a named scholarship, your entire contribution is awarded each year to a qualified student. Without this support, some students would not be able to financially attend Saint Joe's.

"Sponsor a Student" - Lenten Appeal for the Joseph's Annual Fund

We are planning to send out another appeal for the Joseph's Annual Fund during the time of Lent in February 2021. This appeal will be a little different from the Fall Annual Fund Appeal in November 2020. Stay tuned for more details that will be communicated in late January/early February regarding this appeal. Contributions made to this appeal go to support our Joseph's Annual Fund.

Centre Gives Event

Centre Gives is a 36-hour online giving event occurring typically in May each year. It is designed to encourage community giving and to highlight & support the great work of local nonprofits. It provides a fun and exciting way for donors to choose the organizations they wish to support and see their gifts go further. Saint Joe's will once again participate in this event. Look for more details coming from us about this important event in April 2021. Contributions made to this event go to support our Joseph's Annual Fund.

Four Pillars Golf Tournament

Our Four Pillars Golf Tournament is currently scheduled to take place on Monday, June 7, 2021. This tournament will support our Back the Pack program. Our Back the Pack program supports, facilitates, and promotes athletics & other activities for the benefit of our students. We will begin promoting this event in the spring of 2021.

A note about Salt and Light

As you know, Service is one of our 4 Pillars at Saint Joseph's. We are currently discussing our community engagement model in light of the issues that Covid has presented. We are discussing our community engagement model and how we will proceed in the future. What we accomplished through Salt and Light in the past will most likely look a little different going forward. Stay tuned for developments with our community engagement initiatives.



Watch the video to learn why Saint Joseph's students Grace and Jordyn Rose are **ALL IN** for Saint Joe's!

Alumni Spotlight

By: Susan Robinson Fruchtl

Each month we will check in with some Saint Joseph's Alumni doing a Q & A to spotlight their journeys. Our spotlight this month is Matthew Steyers. Thanks to Matt for sharing about his journey and how Saint Joe's has impacted him. Matthew is utilizing his Saint Joe's experience to do things he is passionate about!



Matthew Steyers – SJCA Class of 2019

1. Tell us a little about your college experience thus far.

I am currently a Sophomore at Penn State University with intended majors in Finance and Statistics. I really enjoyed meeting new friends my first semester at Penn State. I also really enjoy attending Penn State athletic events especially Football, Hockey, and Basketball games. Finally, I enjoy being able to choose my schedule and take classes that peak my interests.

2. What are you currently doing from a career or education standpoint?

I am currently working through my curriculum of Finance and Statistics hoping to have a career in one or the other. Also, I am currently looking for a Finance internship in town for this upcoming summer. I am also coaching middle school basketball at Our Lady of Victory.

3. What are some of your favorite things you like to do in your personal time?

I enjoy hanging with friends and family, playing golf, and woodworking.

4. How did Saint Joe's impact you? And how are you using the things you learned at Saint Joe's today?

Saint Joe's prepared me very well for the academic rigor of a college schedule because of the options to take advanced and college level classes

in high school. This made it a very easy transition and actually allowed me to transfer in 12 credits which put me semester ahead. Saint Joe's also helped me be comfortable to speak in front of an audience and to talk with people I do not know. This has been a great trait to have at Penn State whether it be meeting new friends, talking with professors, or going to career fairs for internship opportunities. Having the ability to be comfortable conversing is essential.

5. What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about my Faith, Finance, and Coaching.

6. One of your favorite quotes or Bible verses:

James 1:2-4 "Consider it pure joy my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything".

Check out this video to learn why Board of Trustees member Mr. Rob Shearer is **ALL IN** for Saint Joe's!



How Can You Help?

During this health crisis Amazon Smile is still helping non profits and putting a smile on our faces. As you are shopping for supplies please consider using Amazon Smile for your purchases and continue to help Saint Joe's.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

The money that is raised helps the school cover the costs for cleaning, repairs, and technology expenses associated with this crisis.

Would you be willing to help? First, sign up yourself! Then, send this note to your friends and family and ask them to participate with us.

Signing up is easy!

AmazonSmile is a way for families and friends to support your Saint Joe's every time you shop with Amazon. Shoppers who start at smile.amazon.com will find the same Amazon they know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy.

Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials.
3. Choose a "St Josephs Catholic Academy"
4. Select St Josephs Catholic Academy Inc.

4. Start shopping!

5. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

A New Year's Message

By: Father Jonathan

On January 1st the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Let me repeat that, "Mother of God." This phrase alone could serve a lifetime of meditation. Now, before I go on, I hope that you are well aware that I care equally for all members of our community. And so, I will be writing this article in equal consideration of the valued members of our community who are not Catholic. I write this disclaimer so that regardless of your faith tradition you will consider reading on. Whether you have a devotion to Mary or not, I believe that the image of Mary is something that we should all at least consider. The Protestant scripture scholar Shane Wood writes,



"As a Protestant, I refuse to ignore her (Mary) any longer. For without the presence of Mary in our theology how can we even approach the word of God, more or less house it in our interpretive womb? I mean, how many of us, *like Mary*, can claim a holiness sufficient to host the word of God *in us*, and as a teenager no less?"

I would add to this: no Mary, no Incarnation, no Incarnation, no Jesus Christ. Catholics are often accused of deifying Mary. To this I respond that we do not pray to Mary, we pray to God, to Jesus Christ. But we do pray *with* Mary.

We must contemplate Mary to one degree or another because she is essential to the incarnation, to the "Word become flesh." In the virgin's womb we gaze on the mystery of how God enters into the human condition. Ruth Burrows, the Carmelite Nun and spiritual writer says, "Man is an emptiness that only God can fill." Or to put it another way, "man is a capacity for God." In Mary we recognize this infinite capacity and if nothing else we long to emulate her as we continue to reclaim our own capacity for God.

The poor marginalized virgin became the *Mother of God!* This says so much about the possibility of a personal relationship with God, with Jesus Christ. God took the initiative to be so close to us that he actually submitted to being born to a woman... "and the soul felt its worth..." As we leave 2020 behind and embark on 2021 recognizing that all of us hope this coming year might be

better, may we begin by embracing our own capacity for God. May we brought to our knees once again as we end out this Christmas season trembling at the thought of an almighty God who is at once the ruler of the universe and at the same time dwelling in each of us. The world can take away everything except our innate capacity for God and the fact that the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ dwells within us. Is there really anything else we need?

Happy New Year! Mary is the Mother of God, and God is in the manger! His desire to enter into the human condition knows no bounds. May we start off our new year embracing this reality in all its fullness and carry into the world the joy that this brings us.

Merry Christmas! And, have a Happy New Year,

Father Jonathan



Just like all of the faculty, Mr. Walsh is **ALL IN** for Saint Joe's!

Important Dates

Classes Resume
January 4th

End of Quarter 2
January 8th

Martin Luther King Day
No Classes
January 18th

Out of Uniform Day
January 29th

Athletic Events

Go to SJCASports.org for an athletic schedule.

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