



# Saint Joseph Catholic School



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2013 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Academic Excellence Since 1967



*St. Joseph students having fun visiting and playing games with one of our local assisted living residents*

## OUR MISSION

Saint Joseph Catholic School, a ministry of St. Joseph Catholic Church located in Anderson, SC, integrates all learning with faith by empowering preschool, elementary, and middle school students to achieve their full potential as children of God. Saint Joseph Catholic School endeavors to assist parents, as primary educators of their children, in nurturing the intellectual, spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and moral skills to become productive, ethical citizens in the Catholic tradition by providing a sanctuary where academic excellence and spiritual growth can flourish.

“Prayer in action  
is love, and love in  
action is service.”

- Mother Teresa

# From the Principal's Desk



**Mary Ann Wheeler, Principal**

Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."  
- Thérèse de Lisieux

Here at St. Joseph, one of our core values is "Fostering Respect." One way in which we do this is to recognize and respect the human dignity in all. We believe that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God,

and when we serve them, we serve Him. St. Joseph has a long history of participation in yearly service projects by every grade level. This includes collecting cans for the Anderson Emergency Soup Kitchen and preparing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. This year we have also included a weekly Catholic Social Justice class for our Middle School students which is taught by parent volunteer Kari Strathern. They are learning that it is not only important to serve the poor but also to work for justice by changing the underlying causes of poverty.

A wonderful complement to our Catholic service is the Junior Beta Club, a national club that fosters scholarship, character, leadership and service. While I was at the Diocese of Charleston Teacher Education Conference in Columbia, I met the representative of the Beta Club, who visited our school with materials to start a club. Students in 5th through 8th grade will be eligible to participate. Each school sets the requirements in scholarship and character,

and service projects are mandatory. Our staff will be working on these elements so that we can offer this club to our eligible students.

It is a great joy to me to see our students engaged in our service projects, whether it is collecting over a thousand cans for our soup kitchen, pennies for the Leukemia Society, visiting the residents at the assisted living home, or collecting items and visiting Clean Start. The joy comes from seeing students putting their faith in action! God bless our school and our efforts to help the "least of our brothers," for we are truly serving God.

Yours in Christ,

*Mary Ann Wheeler*

Mary Ann Wheeler, M.Ed.  
Principal



*Two of our Duke TIP Scholars reading a Junior Beta Club brochure*

Attending St. Joseph is an experience of a lifetime. Service opened my eyes to how much people need my help.

John Michael, 7th Grade

Service is important because we make our world a better place. Alyssa, 1st Grade

## A New Addition

*Caleb Hylkema, Eighth Grade Student*

The child who would become a Franciscan Friar and be known as Ignatius was born in Washington, D.C., and was baptized Joseph. As a youth, Joseph E. Smith had always felt attracted not only to the vocation of Holy Orders, but also to a specific order of priests, the Order of Friars Minor (OFM). Having both his grandfathers, his own father and his brother with Francis' namesake, and having grown up right next to a Franciscan monastery, it is no wonder why the OFM appealed to Joseph. Although during adolescence his calling to priesthood became dull, this desire towards a vocational life never went away fully. Finally, after studying in D.C., his dreams came true and he became a priest, joined the OFM, and was given the name of Ignatius. He was then sent directly to Brazil as a missionary. After 10 years in Brazil, he returned to the U.S. and joined the United States Navy as a priest and served for 23 years! Sometime later, he began pastoring at the Holy Cross Church in Callicoon, New York. After staying in that parish for 17 years, he was ordered to St. Joseph Church in Anderson, SC. Here, he has served as the parochial vicar and will soon take the lead of St. Joseph Church and School when our beloved Fr. Paul leaves to preach in Delaware. Fr. Ignatius has thoroughly enjoyed his time so far at St. Joseph as the parochial assistant. His favorite hobby is gardening, which is not very hard to tell, given the beautiful botanical embellishments he has bestowed all around the church itself. Fr. Ignatius also enjoys talking and working with the youth of our church, having had much experience in such fields. When Father Ignatius does take the lead at St. Joseph, he says that no adjustments to the church or the school will be necessary. Father describes our church and school as "running very well." We should all take our time to welcome Fr. Ignatius E. Smith into the loving community of Anderson and St. Joseph.



*Students and Father Ignatius participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade to benefit the Anderson Free Clinic*



**Fr. Ignatius Smith, OFM**

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# Middle Schoolers Explore Catholic Social Justice Teachings

This year, St. Joseph added a course in Social Service and Justice to the middle school curriculum. Each Wednesday after mass, the students take time to explore one of the seven principles of social justice as set forth by the Catholic church or work on a community service project. They have written a pro-life letter to President Obama, organized a “Don’t Text and Drive” campaign, and worked on raising awareness about the concerns of the elderly. Guest speakers have included representatives from Clean Start and The Anderson Free Clinic, as well as Father Ignatius, who shared his experiences serving as a missionary in Brazil. The activities and topics are varied so that the class can see how many opportunities there are to promote justice and serve those in need.



*Through the class, I have become more aware of problems that some people face everyday, and that makes me a better person. - Sophia, 7th grade*



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## How can you help the people you love?

(Pre-K and Kindergarten responses)

“helping mom with setting the table”

“taking out the trash”

“picking up trash outside”

“reading a story to my grandma”

“helping my dad plant flowers”



“clean up my toys”

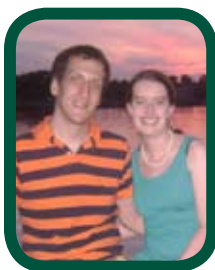
“put my clothes away”

“play with my sister”

“be kind to my friends”

“write a card to my grandma”

## Alumni Spotlight: Michelle Cauthen



I am a graduate of St. Joseph Catholic School and currently work as a Certified Child Life Specialist in a Child Advocacy Center within a children’s hospital. I provide developmental assessments, teaching, therapeutic resources, and preparation to children victimized by physical sexual abuse. In addition to my role in the Child Advocacy Center, I provide support to pediatric patients and

family members throughout the hospital, including serving children of critically and terminally ill patients. It is simultaneously one of the most difficult and rewarding tasks I have encountered, and I pray that I am aptly answering the call to serve.

My path to the healthcare and human services field, specifically in pediatrics, was laid with a solid foundation throughout my tenure at St. Joseph Catholic School. The values of service, justice, human rights, and social responsibility were instilled in religious education, built upon in academic

classes, and practiced in extra-curricular and volunteer opportunities. Opportunities to mentor younger students within the intimate school setting allowed for students to cultivate caretaking roles and find a passion in working with children. Encouragement from teachers, faculty members, parents, and other students provided a sense of accomplishment and encouraged achievement. The strong connection to the teachings of the Catholic church was a constant reminder that I was created by God to do great things. That message was consistently reinforced by those whose paths I crossed within the school system, and who continued to support me as a church community once I had graduated from the school. I am so proud of what this school represents and what it has to offer, and always take opportunities to share my experiences with others. I carry with me wonderful memories and a strong sense of community that will always hold a special place in my heart!



At St. Joseph Catholic Middle School, we are taught about service and values. We are encouraged to go out into society and spread a smile to those in need! A smile and a good deed are the best gifts you can give.  
Virginia, 7th Grade

# Service with a Smile



God wants us to help and it makes Him happy. He made us all equal, so we should help everybody. Domenica, 1st Grade

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