

2019 Rake for a Reason

Friday, November 8, 2019 | Mass 8:15 am | Raking and lunch to follow

Help us reach our goal of \$40,000 for our school!

All families are invited to join us for Mass and raking in the community on November 8, 2019.

- Bring in your pledge donations each Monday (pledge days) starting now through November 8.
- Students can wear their 160th Celebration T-Shirt (with Uniform Bottoms) on pledge days (Mondays).

Why the name change? Rake for a Reason instead of Rake-a-Thon?

Going forward our annual service event will be called Rake for a Reason. Our school felt that this new name more closely defines why we rake. We rake for this reason: to *serve* those in need in the community.

Volunteer Sign up and RSVP!

- All families should let us know if they plan to join us on raking day. Visit our website for the volunteer sign up or use the QR code (right).



Sign up to Rake!

Pep Rallies

- Kick off Pep Rally - Monday, October 7th at 8:00 am (Gym)
- Awards and Prizes / Concluding Pep Rally - Monday, November 11 at 8:00 am (Gym)

Rake for a Reason - Spirit Wear/Food Shelf Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4	5	6	7	8
Spirit Wear: Jersey Day Food Shelf: Cereals	Spirit Wear: Hawaiian/Tropical Day Food Shelf: Peanut Butter/Jelly	Spirit Wear: American Day Food Shelf: Toiletries	Rosary: Grade 6 (2 pm) Spirit Wear: Comfy/PJ Day Food Shelf: Canned Soups	Raking Day SJS Mass (Gr. 8) 8:15 am Spirit Wear: 160th Celebration T-Shirt/Jeans *Dress for weather Food Shelf: Canned Fruits/Veges 1:00 PM Release

2019 Rake for a Reason FAQ's

What is Rake for a Reason?

St. Joseph Catholic School's annual Service Marathon is a wonderful tradition for our school. Since 1971, we have participated in the Minnesota Marathon for Nonpublic Education; however, in 2003 we changed the traditional walk/bike marathon into a service raking event where our students, staff, and parents dedicate an entire day to serving others in Waconia and surrounding communities.

How does the Rake for a Reason raise money for the school? Is it applied to my Fair Share?

Students are asked to share with friends, family members, and neighbors the great things we are accomplishing at St. Joe's and ask for a pledge commitment towards the Minnesota Marathon for Nonpublic Education (Rake for a Reason). The money raised goes towards the school (Fair Share). 100% of what you fundraise is applied towards your Fair Share (\$700/family).

How does the Rake for a Reason event work?

The Rake for a Reason itself will be on **Friday, November 8**. The day will begin by gathering together for Mass at 8:15 AM. After Mass, the kids will be broken into teams to rake leaves in the Waconia, Cologne, St. Bonifacious and Victoria communities.

How do I sign up to volunteer for the raking event? What volunteer opportunities are there?

All parents/grandparents who wish to volunteer, should sign up to volunteer so we can put you on a raking team. Sign up information is included in weekly newsletters and/or available on our school website.

Opportunities include raking, picking up bags of leaves—trucks/trailers needed!, Rake for a Reason team chaperones (this would be a team leader/captain that would keep the office apprised on the status of each raking team during the Rake-a-Thon day.)

How does lunch work? Can I (as a parent) each lunch too?

When field projects are complete, teams will return to school for lunch. School lunch for raking day is cook's choice. Parents/Grandparents/Special Friends can sign up for lunch with their child's teacher that day.

Can I take my child home after the day is done?

Yes! Most raking teams will be done earlier than the normal school dismissal time. Parents can take their child(ren) home after lunch. Check out with your teacher (Gr. K-4) or the office (Gr. 5-8).

How can I ask my family and friends to donate to this cause?

The best way to ask for your family and friends to donate to Rake for a Reason is by asking in person or sharing the letter (on the following page), and social media. The letter on the following page was created for families to utilize in asking for donations. Check out our ideas to spread the word on the last page in the packet!

Do I need complete VIRTUS training?

Yes. All parents and volunteers need to complete Virtus training to attend and volunteer on the Rake-a-Thon day. To complete your training or answer any questions, visit www.virtus.org or email Sarah at srichards@stjosephwaconia.org

What if it rains on raking Day?

We will be raking rain or shine! Please be sure your students are dressed appropriately for the day. Dress in layers.

Ideas to help you spread the word about Rake for a Reason

Share on Facebook or Instagram

Child post: Take a picture of your child raking leaves and post the following:

We are trying to help @sjswaconia raise money in support of our annual service raking event, “Rake for a Reason” on November 8th! I love my school because..... Please consider donating to my service event! <https://school.stjosephwaconia.org/programs/rakeforareason/>

Child Post: Have your child read the below and share the video on social media:

Help support my amazing school - St. Joseph Catholic STEM School! On November 8, my entire school dedicates an entire day to rake yards in our community for those in need. I am asking for pledge donations in support of this day of service. When I turn in pledges, I can win cool prizes! We are also asking for prayer intentions too! Please share your intentions and we will pray for them!

Parent Post: Heartfelt story

Share a personal testimony about our school. Share an experience about your child and how the school (or a specific teacher) has helped them learn and grow. Explain that if you are looking for a great cause to give to, this would be it. Include a link to our online donation page and ask them to post a prayer intention for the day. *be sure to provide the prayer intentions to the school office for our November 8th Mass. <https://school.stjosephwaconia.org/programs/rakeforareason/>

Include a picture of your child in uniform and/or with their teacher.

Other ideas:

Business Match Donations

Ask a business to match your donations. Suggest that they contribute \$100 per child in your family. Provide the business names to the school office, and we will give them a shout out on social media for supporting our school.

Rake other yards in your neighborhood and ask for pledge donations and prayer intentions! Make this a fun family activity and do it together. Remember to bring any prayer intentions to the school office.

Email family and friends the letter on page 4! Remember to always follow up with a personal phone call to make the ask.

Join the
Ben Franklin Club
by raising
\$100 or more!



For every \$100 raised, you will be entered
for a chance to win a top prize!

\$100 = 1 chance to win

\$200 = 2 chances to win

\$600 = 6 chances to win

WIN one of these **TOP PRIZES:**

LEGO Chose from one of these two LEGO sets



**iKanzi wireless earbuds
+ a \$25 Amazon gift card**



**A chance to do
"The Dollar Jump"
and win cash!**



Donation Request Letter

Dear Friends and Family,

My school, St. Joseph Catholic STEM School in Waconia, is having its annual *Marathon for Nonpublic Education* on November 8, 2019.

St. Joseph Catholic STEM School devotes a day to performing service acts throughout the community. We do this through our annual service raking event called, *Rake for a Reason*. We have been raking lawns in the St. Bonifacius, Victoria and Waconia communities for the past 17 years.

Our Day of Service

- All Mass 8:15 am
- Break into student and parent teams to rake the yards of community members who need a hand with seasonal lawn maintenance in our town and surrounding communities.
- Hosting a food drive for the Waconia United Food Shelf.

I would appreciate it very much if you would sponsor me with a donation to support our efforts. This is a very important fundraiser for our school, and all of the money we raise goes directly to school needs. Please complete the donation form below and mail it directly to me, along with your donation check made payable to St. Joseph Catholic School. **All donations must be turned into our school office by Friday November 8, 2019.**

In return, our school would like to pray for any intentions that you have. Please list your prayer intentions below, and we will pray for all intentions at our Mass on November 8th.

Thank you very much for your support!

In Christ,

Student Name



I wish to show my support for you and your school.

I will donate \$_____ for the 2019 St. Joseph Catholic School Rake for a Reason event. I wish you the best of luck in your special day!

Student/Family Name

Sponsor Signature

Please list any prayer intentions and our school will pray for them at our November 8th Mass.



Scan this QR code with your QR code app on your mobile device to donate.



41 East First Street
Waconia, MN 55387
Phone: 952-442-4500 Fax: 952-442-3719
Email: schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org

Field Trip Announcement

Please return this form to your HOMEROOM TEACHER by Friday, October 26, 2019.

What: Rake for a Reason - Raking Event

When: Friday, November 8, 2019

Where: Waconia and surrounding communities

Who: Grades K-8

Why: Minnesota Marathon for Non-public Education

What to Wear: 160th Celebration T-Shirt and Jeans, Dress warm and in Layers.

Lunch: At St. Joseph School - Cooks Choice. \$4 per adult meal, \$3.60 student meal to student lunch account.

1. My child(ren),

has (have) permission to attend the raking event on November 9, 2019.

*Parent signature _____

2. Reminder! Parents, Alumni and Friends, need to RSVP to attend our raking day. This will help us form our raking teams.

- a. Visit the school website to find the volunteer sign up link or scan the QR code (right).



*Field trip indemnity form is on file in the school office.