

2020 Rake for a Reason



Friday, November 6, 2020 | Prayer Service 8:15 am | Raking to follow

Help us reach our goal of \$30,000 for our school!

All families are invited to join us for Prayer and raking in the community on November 6, 2020.

- Bring in your pledge donations each Friday (pledge days) starting now through November 6.
- Students can wear Spirit Wear (with Uniform Bottoms) on pledge days (Fridays).

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

- Students will get to enjoy modified pep-rallies leading up to the big day!

COVID-19 safety measures:

This year, because of COVID-19 we must change a few things. We will not be able to have Mass to kick off the day. We will do a prayer service outside before leaving to rake. We also cannot mix grades for our teams. When signing up to help please indicate which grade you would like to help. We will do our best to accommodate your choice. We love having alumni help, we just ask that they ride with a parent. Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can plan teams. Lastly, we will not be able to have a lunch back inside the school. Watch for more details as the event gets closer.

Rake for a Reason - Spirit Wear/Food Shelf Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
NO SCHOOL	Spirit Wear: American Day (non-political) Food Shelf: Peanut Butter/Jelly	Spirit Wear: Comfy/PJ Day Food Shelf: Toiletries	SJS Prayer Service 8:15 am Spirit Wear: Jersey Day Uniform Bottoms Food Shelf: Canned Soups	Raking Day Prayer Service 8:15 Spirit Wear: Spirit wear T-Shirt/Jeans *Dress for weather Food Shelf: Canned Fruits/Vegies



2020 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 (\$600/family). Families are encouraged to raise funds beyond their fair share amount.

How does the Rake for a Reason event work?

The Rake for a Reason itself will be on **Friday, November 6**. The day will begin by gathering together for a prayer service at 8:15 AM. After the prayer service, 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/leaf blowers 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-for-reason day.)

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

When field projects are complete, teams will return to school. Due to COVID-19, Parents/Grandparents/Special Friends should watch for details to come about how lunch will work.

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 should plan take their child(ren) home after raking. 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 to complete VIRTUS training?

Yes. All parents and volunteers need to complete Virtus training to attend and volunteer for Rake For A Reason 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 6th! 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 6, 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 5th 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:

**Win Mr. Richards' Money, an Amazon Echo Dot,
and a surprise prize, watch for more details to come!**



**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 6, 2020.

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 18 years.

Our Day of Service

- Prayer Service at 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 6, 2020.**

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 5th.

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 2020 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 5th Mass.



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