

## **2021 Rake for a Reason FAQ's**

### **What is Rake for a Reason?**

St. Joseph Catholic STEM 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. In 2019 we changed the name from Rake-a-thon to Rake for a Reason to emphasize the service we are doing.

### **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. Joseph'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).

### **How does the Rake for a Reason event work?**

The Rake for a Reason event will be on **Friday, November 12**. The day will begin by gathering together for mass at 8:15 AM. After the mass, the kids and their families will be broken into teams to rake leaves in the Waconia, St. Bonifacious, and Victoria communities.

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

This is traditionally a day many parents take off work to help with raking. All parents, grandparents, or families members who wish to volunteer should sign up so we can put you on a raking team. Sign-up information is included in weekly newsletters, is available on our school website or by clicking this [link](#).

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) eat lunch too?**

When field projects are complete, teams will return to school for lunch. School lunch for the raking day is the cook's choice. Students will be provided with lunch like normal. Parents are welcome to join. Watch for a lunch sign-up as the event gets closer.

### **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 that can be found in the packet, or with a personal video/message on social media. The letter in the packet 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!

Send family and friends to your own donation page! Here is the link to the [main fundraising page](#). Each family will be given their own link to send out to families and track their online donations.

### **Do I need to 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](http://www.virtus.org) or email Sarah at [srichards@stjosephwaconia.org](mailto:srichards@stjosephwaconia.org)

### **What if it rains on raking Day?**

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