

All Apostles Society

An Invitation to Membership



Our Children • Our Faith • Our Future

A Word from our Principal



At St. Joseph Catholic School of Batavia, our motto is "Our Children, Our Faith, Our Future." As the school's principal, I invite you to consider supporting our school community. As those of us with an enthusiasm for Catholic education know, a faith-based education benefits a student, their family and their community for a lifetime.

St. Joseph School is the only Catholic elementary school in Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming Counties. We currently serve 250 students from 14 school districts. In partnership with student families and their communities, we strive to nurture students to become motivated, respectful, moral young adults ready for the challenges of high school.

The true cost of educating one student for an entire school year continues to grow. Our families pay approximately 60% of this cost through their tuition. The balance must be satisfied by school-sponsored fundraising as well as through the generosity of donors like you. Without donor support, we would be forced to charge the entire cost of a year's education as tuition. Many of our families could not afford this additional expense.

Your membership to the **All Apostles Society** is critical in ensuring that our students and educators will continue to have the resources required for an exceptional, faith-based education both now and for many years to come.

As you make your membership decision, I encourage you to contact me with any questions you may have about St. Joseph School. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,

Mrs. Karen Green



Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.

—Pope John Paul II

Educating Our Children and the History of St. Joseph School

St. Joseph Catholic School has a long history of service in Genesee County with roots dating back to 1873 when Rev. Thomas Cunningham settled on Jackson Street in Batavia, bringing with him six Sisters of Mercy. The school later moved to Ross Street before opening on Summit Street in 1882, operating in a building there until 1959. At that time, the original building was torn down due to safety concerns and a new building was constructed. Today, St. Joseph School serves 250 students from 14 districts and is the only Catholic elementary school in the tri-County region.

Living Our Faith and the Current State of St. Joseph School

St. Joseph Catholic School teaches in partnership with parents and the Church. However, support from alumni, past parents, friends, and the local community is necessary for the long term strength of our school, and ultimately, our students.

St. Joseph's is authentically Catholic, meaning that we follow the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and the religious guidelines as found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Handbook of Elementary Schools in the Diocese of Buffalo.

Our faculty and staff are committed to providing an academically rigorous educational program with appropriate academic support services. Each student is viewed as an individual and instructional approaches are designed so that each student has the opportunity to thrive and experience success.

Preparing for Our Future and the Vision of St. Joseph School

The sacramental life of the children of the Catholic tradition is an important component of the religious program at St. Joseph School. Parents are required to be active partners in the preparation of their children for these sacraments, including Reconciliation and Eucharist.

St. Joseph School develops students not only through education and faith formation, but through leadership opportunities. Student life includes a variety of clubs, activities and athletics which contribute to a student's education in these areas.



"What a treasure we have in St. Joseph's School. Ask anyone who ever attended the school and the reply you will get will probably be something like this, 'It was the best time of my life.' And that sentiment tells us where the treasure really is."

—Norman Argulsky, Board Member

Mission Statement

In partnership with parents and the Church, we strive to nurture the unique individuals that God has created by encouragement, example, and high expectations. We will nurture a secure foundation of strong virtues and excellent academics so that our students will continue to grow in holiness and skills to be well-equipped to fulfill their individual missions in life.

At St. Joseph School, tuition helps offset major annual expenses and per pupil costs while maintaining an efficient student/teacher ratio. Diocesan mandates require that parish schools such as St. Joseph's work toward funding the cost of education as: 60% tuition, 25% from community parishes and 15% from fundraising. The **All Apostles Society** is a powerful and strategic way of demonstrating to the Diocese that our community is committed to achieving this goal.

Through the All Apostles Society, donors have the option of designating gifts to any or all of the four most critical areas of focus at St. Joseph's. Gifts to these funds would be the most impactful and would significantly offset rising costs.

Spotlighted areas of focus include: Student Support, Faculty Support, Technology Enhancement Fund, and Principal's Unrestricted Discretionary Fund. Donor support of these funds is considered the most essential need.



"I believe that God is present in all aspects of our lives and that having God as a partner in education makes it more meaningful. I love bringing my students closer to God through our time together. I am a product of Catholic education—nursery school through high school. I want to provide that same faith-based education for our students."
—Mrs. Anna Perl, 2nd Grade Teacher

Student Support

Support of our children can come in many different forms. Both merit and needs based scholarships are a key component to maintaining a full, well rounded student body. With each passing year, the number of students that depend on scholarships increases. Currently, 60% of students receive some form of tuition assistance. Tuition increases do not proportionately cover rising operating costs.

Extracurricular activities for students are also part of this fund. They include field trips, school projects, athletics, club events and other activities.

Faculty Support

In addition to St. Joseph's students, support for the faculty is essential. Additional help is needed for this fund as we strive for low student/teacher ratios. External educators and a wide variety of programs serve our students every day. Counseling, foreign language, advanced placement courses and career days are just a few examples of curriculum enrichment. Our educators are also encouraged to attend professional workshops, conferences and training sessions. All of the associated costs of faculty enhancement could be lowered with your support of the **All Apostles Society**.

Technology Enhancement Fund

In today's fast paced world, technology is proving to be an ever growing need in education. The faculty and staff at St. Joseph School are committed to offering students some of the tools and knowledge that will be a foundation of success for years to come. The benefits of recent advances come at a cost: wireless networking, 'smart' science labs, hardware such as iPads and laptops and their respective necessary contracts, make up a considerable percentage of our budget.

Principal's Unrestricted Fund

Faith based and community wide support for Catholic education is part of what makes St. Joseph School so special. Occasionally, opportunities to enhance learning objectives present themselves. By supporting this fund, you are making a direct impact on the overall health of St. Joseph's by providing our Principal the chance to capitalize on these opportunities.

Self-sustainability is a long term goal of St. Joseph School. The Principal's Unrestricted Fund will help lower the dependence on Diocesan and Parish financial dependence. Your gift will help us achieve all of these goals!



Some Benefits of Membership

Membership provides mutual benefits to you and to St. Joseph School. By joining the **All Apostles Society**, you will be recognized as a leadership level donor. Budget relief for our Principal and Board of limited Jurisdiction will help both tangible and intangible aspects of our school. A multi-year commitment to the **All Apostles Society** eases budget pressure and helps with forecasting future budgets.

Many of our current donors enjoy supporting regional or community based organizations and keeping 100% of their tax deductible gift locally. In that spirit, a special annual event for All Apostle Society Members will be held prior to the Popcorn Ball every fall. The commitment individual members have made will be recognized and the membership honor roll will be provided.

Through the **All Apostles Society** many different people with different backgrounds can unite in the common goal of supporting the overall health of St. Joseph School. For current parents, the **All Apostles Society** may alleviate the pressure to fulfill the requirements of monthly fundraisers. Alumni will secure their own legacy for generations to come. Local friends of St. Joseph School will know that they are supporting the 2012 Genesee County Chamber of Commerce Special Service Award recipient.

Annual Giving Levels

Memberships will be granted to those supporters who make a three-year pledge at one of the following levels annually:



GOLD
\$3000+



SILVER
\$1000 - \$2999



BRONZE
\$500 - \$999

Memberships are granted based on total giving in any calendar year (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31).



"Teaching at a Catholic school allows me to teach the whole child, body, mind and soul. Teaching the children about how much God loves them is my greatest pleasure."
—Mrs. Beth Hofmaster, Pre-K Teacher

St. Joseph School invites you to become a member of the **All Apostles Society**. Your commitment to Catholic education truly demonstrates your value of Our Children, Our Faith, and Our Future. Members of the **All Apostles Society** are an extremely influential group of supporters and will forever hold a special place in our history. Thank you for considering the **All Apostles Society** as part of your legacy.



Buffalo Diocese Philosophy

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Buffalo are Christ-centered learning communities which nurture academic excellence, Christian character and service to others. Our mission is to educate individuals to reach their full potential in an atmosphere rooted in Catholic tradition and Gospel values. We will continue to partner with Catholic elementary and secondary schools in providing faith-based education, academic excellence and service to the community while empowering stakeholders To Teach as Jesus Did through open communication, professional development, and school-to-school partnerships.

The Vision of the Department of Catholic Schools is to build on a strong Catholic tradition and to be the premier educational choice for all families. Inspired by our faith and in partnership with the parents and the Catholic community, our schools will be dedicated to student excellence. Restructured parishes and schools will give evidence to the good stewardship of our resources while creating vibrant parish communities and academically excellent, fiscally sound schools.



“One of the tenets of Catholic education is service to others. The staff, faculty, students, families and volunteers at St. Joseph School should be commended for their dedication not only to academic excellence but to faithful citizenship as well. I wish you God’s richest blessings as you continue to educate, form, and prepare tomorrow’s leaders. And please know that your efforts are deeply appreciated and admired by me as your Bishop.”

—Most Reverend Richard Joseph Malone, Bishop of Buffalo



**To learn more about the All Apostles Society please contact
the St. Joseph Catholic School Advancement Coordinator at:**

e-mail: advancement@sjsbatavia.org or **tel:** (585) 343-6154



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