

SJPII Parent-Teacher Organization for 2026-2027

The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is an essential part of the St. John Paul II Catholic School community. It is made up of dedicated parents, guardians, and staff who share a common goal: to enhance our children's educational experience while building a strong, faith-filled community - and having fun along the way!

The PTO serves as a bridge between home and school, helping to foster open communication and collaboration. Throughout the year, the PTO organizes family-friendly events, fundraising activities, and community-building opportunities. Funds raised by the PTO help provide resources, supplies, and activities that enrich our school community and support needs not fully covered by tuition.

Our guiding reminder is:

“O Lord, you are my portion and my cup, you are all I need.” Psalm 16:5

Getting involved in the PTO is a meaningful way to take an active role in your child's education and fulfill your required volunteer hours while making lasting connections within our school family.

PTO Executive Board

President: Ambre Kornegay ptopres@jp2catholicschool.org

Vice President: Haley Gonzales

Treasurer: Tricia Hernandez

Recording Secretary: Christa Willie

Corresponding Secretary: Sara Fogle

Volunteer Coordinator: Sandy Kemple

President Emeritus: Meg Rosario

Grade Level Parents (GLP) Coordinator

The Grade Level Parent (GLP) Coordinator serves as an important liaison between families, the PTO, and the school. This role helps strengthen communication and build community within each grade level.

Key Responsibilities:

- ❖ **Serve as the primary point of contact** between grade-level parents and the PTO President, sharing questions, concerns, and important information both ways.
- ❖ **Organize a casual gathering for students and parents** before the start of school, such as a park day, picnic, or sports activity, to help build connections within the grade level.
- ❖ **Share teacher-provided information**, including preferred communication methods and strategies, with parents (upcoming class projects, events, classroom needs, PTO flyers, and field trips).
- ❖ Provide helpful information to both new and returning SJPII families, including resources such as Track it Forward, volunteer training, fundraising opportunities, teacher preferences, and more.

Grade Level Parent (GLP) List

GLP Coordinator: Megan Conrad

Pre-K Parent: Tara Gatti

Kinder Parent: Tessa Choban and Christa Willie

1st Grade Parent: Mika Mendez

2nd Grade Parent: Susanna Binkley

3rd Grade Parent: Leia Capps and Clare Gebhardt

4th Grade Parent: Tricia Hernandez

5th Grade Parent: Tricia Hernandez

6th Grade Parent: Rachel Steele and Katerina Dominguez

7th Grade Parent: Christina Kassop and Lauren Peledge

8th Grade Parent: Sarah Beth Atkins and Sara Blakely

SJPII Event Coordinators:

Used Uniform Sale Coordinator: Tessa Choban

Campus Clean Up Coordinator: Karen Lambert

Box Tops Coordinator:

Raise Right Coordinator: Christa Willie

Spirit Wear Coordinator: Laura Cabrera

Festifall Coordinators: PTO board

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Coordinator:

Christmas Bazaar Committee: Becca Szymanski, Christina Snuffin and Meg Rosario.

Christmas Parade Coordinator :

Christmas Tree Decoration Coordinator:

Gala Committee: Randy Hernandez, Amanda Fraser-Bizorik, Tricia Hernandez, Ambre Kornegay, Haley Gonzales, Meg Rosario.

Fish Fry Committee:

Catholic Schools Week Lunch Coordinator :

Teacher Appreciation Week Coordinator :

Parent Rosary Group Coordinators: Kelly Stivers

Fundraising and Volunteer Commitment

St. John Paul II Catholic School is committed to providing a high-quality, faith-based education while keeping tuition rates as affordable as possible. However, the actual cost of educating each student exceeds the annual tuition charged.

To help bridge this gap and continue offering excellent programs and resources, we rely on the active participation of our school families in both fundraising efforts and volunteer activities. These initiatives play a vital role in supporting our school and can only succeed through the generosity and dedication of our volunteers.

Your time, talents, and support make a meaningful difference in the life of our school community.

Used Uniform Sales

Our Used Uniform Sales not only provide families with affordable uniform options but also help raise additional funds for our school. Gently used uniforms are bought back for **\$3 per item** and sold for **\$5 per item** (with occasional exceptions for special sales). **Please note: uniforms that are faded, have outdated logos, or show signs of damage such as rips or stains will not be accepted for resale.**

Used Uniform Sale Dates (Held at Tru-Legacy Activity Center):

- **August 1ST | 9:00 – 11:30**
- **August 17 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM**
- **October 20 | 2:00 – 3:15 PM**
- **November 17 | 2:00 – 3:15 PM**
- **February 16 | 2:00 – 3:15 PM**
- **April 20 | 2:00 – 3:15 PM**
- **May 25 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

*** Please note dates are subject to change. Any updates will be communicated as soon as possible.**

Unclaimed items from Lost and Found will be collected a week prior to each sale and added to

the inventory. If your child is missing a fleece, sweatshirt, or other uniform item, please check Lost and Found before these dates.

At this time, **cash and checks only** are accepted. We are not able to process credit cards or FACTS payments for these sales. For questions, please contact our Used Uniform Coordinator, **Tessa Choban**.

Used Uniform Sales Coordinator Responsibilities

- ❖ Organize and lead five uniform sales annually in partnership with the PTO.
- ❖ Work with the PTO to schedule and advertise sales in advance.
- ❖ Determine volunteer needs and coordinate assistance.
- ❖ Ensure uniforms are sorted, laundered, labeled by size, and displayed prior to each sale.
- ❖ Provide uniform guidelines for parents during sales.
- ❖ Oversee collection and organization of uniforms post-sale for future events. .

Festifall

Date & Time: October 16 | 3:00 – 6:00 PM

Festifall is a fun, family-friendly event for our school community! It features games, activities, food, and entertainment for all ages. This annual tradition helps bring our families together in a joyful and festive atmosphere.

For questions about Festifall, please contact:

PTO board | ptopres@jp2catholicschool.org

Festifall Coordinator Responsibilities

The Festifall Coordinator works closely with the PTO, Grade Level Parent (GLP) Coordinator, and parent volunteers to ensure a successful and well-organized event.

Responsibilities include:

- ❖ **Collaborate with GLP Coordinator and parents** to ensure each grade hosts a booth with a fun activity or game.
- ❖ **Plan and communicate** a clear layout for the event so families know where activities, booths, and vendors are located.

- ❖ **Coordinate** with food and drink vendors, and organize additional activities such as a, bounce house, dunk tank etc.
- ❖ **Recruit and manage volunteers** needed for set-up, support during the event, and clean-up afterward.
- ❖ Oversee logistics for both the **Tru-Legacy Activity Center** and outdoor areas where the event typically takes place.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

The Pumpkin Decorating Contest is a fun and creative tradition held during Festifall. Students are invited to decorate a pumpkin at home and bring it to school for display and judging.

Pumpkin Decorating Coordinator Responsibilities

The Pumpkin Decorating Coordinator ensures the event runs smoothly by managing all logistics leading up to and during the contest.

Responsibilities include:

- ❖ Advertise the event in advance through flyers, newsletters, or school communication channels.
- ❖ Set up tables the morning of the event to receive and display student pumpkins.
- ❖ Label each pumpkin with a number to assist with voting.
- ❖ Oversee the voting process and tally votes to determine winners.
- ❖ Ensure the display is organized and accessible for students, staff, and families to enjoy.

Christmas Bazaar

Date & Time: November 21 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Christmas Bazaar is a festive, annual event at St. John Paul II Catholic School, featuring local vendors selling hand-crafted goods—perfect for holiday shopping! Santa and Mrs. Claus often make a special appearance and are available for photos with children and families.

For questions about the Christmas Bazaar, please contact:

Becca Syzmanski

Christmas Bazaar Coordinator Responsibilities

The Christmas Bazaar Coordinator oversees the planning and execution of this fun and festive event. **Responsibilities include:**

- ❖ Coordinate with local vendors to secure participation and collect payments for vendor spaces.
- ❖ Organize the event layout and logistics, including setup and breakdown on the day of the bazaar.
- ❖ Arrange for donated items to be raffled off to attendees during the event.
- ❖ Work with the PTO and volunteers to ensure a smooth and successful event for both vendors and guests.

Christmas Parade

St. John Paul II Catholic School proudly participates in the **Southern Pines Christmas Parade** each year by entering a festive school float. Students, parents, teachers, and staff are all welcome and encouraged to join in this joyful community tradition!

Date & Time: December 5 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Parade Coordinator Responsibilities

The Parade Coordinator leads the planning and organization for SJPII's participation in the parade.

Responsibilities include:

- ❖ Plan, design, and oversee the creation of the SJPII Christmas float.

- ❖ Organize and communicate with all students, parents, staff, and faculty participating in the parade.
- ❖ Coordinate logistics, including float transportation, parade route details, and gathering locations for participants.
- ❖ Ensure the group represents SJPII in a joyful, safe, and organized manner.

Catholic Schools Week

Dates: January 31- February 6

Catholic Schools Week is a special time set aside to celebrate the gift of Catholic education. Throughout the week, St. John Paul II Catholic School hosts a variety of activities and events that highlight our faith, our school community, and the blessings of Catholic education.

Catholic Schools Week Coordinator Responsibilities

The Catholic Schools Week Coordinator helps make this week extra special for our faculty and staff by organizing a meal in their honor.

Responsibilities include:

- ❖ Plan and coordinate a breakfast or lunch for the SJPII faculty and staff during Catholic Schools Week.
- ❖ Work with volunteers and the PTO to organize food donations, setup, serving, and clean-up.
- ❖ Help foster a spirit of gratitude and appreciation for our dedicated teachers and staff during this celebration of Catholic education.

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE Gala

The **SJPII Gala** is a cherished tradition — a wonderful evening for parents, staff, and friends of the school to dress up, enjoy a night out, and support our school through a joyful fundraising celebration.

Save the Date:

2027 Gala — Friday, April 23rd

Location: Pinehurst Fair Barn

For more information or to volunteer, please contact **Randy Hernandez**.

Gala Event Coordinator Responsibilities

The Gala Event Coordinator works closely with the PTO to plan and execute this special evening. **Responsibilities include:**

- ❖ Organize and lead a volunteer team to assist with event planning and execution.
- ❖ Collaborate with the PTO to determine the date, location, and event theme.
- ❖ Oversee all aspects of event planning, including decorations, entertainment, activities, meals, and beverages.
- ❖ Coordinate a Silent Auction and any additional fundraising activities for the evening.
- ❖ Ensure the evening reflects the joy and community spirit of SJPII while supporting the school's mission.

Lenten Fish Fry

This year marks our **Fourth annual Lenten Fish Fry** a wonderful opportunity to build community and strengthen ties with our parish while observing the Lenten tradition of fellowship and simple meals. We hope to continue growing this event with even greater participation and support!

Dates:

February 12, 19, 26 and March 5, 12 ,19

Time: 4:30 – 6:00PM

Location: Tru-Legacy Activity Center

Fish Fry Coordinator Responsibilities

The Fish Fry Coordinator works with the PTO to plan and carry out each Fish Fry event during Lent. **Responsibilities include:**

- ❖ Collaborate with the PTO to plan menus and purchase food and supplies.

- ❖ Coordinate volunteers for food preparation, serving, and clean-up.
- ❖ Organize food donations from families and local businesses.
- ❖ Help advertise the event to increase school and parish participation.
- ❖ Oversee set-up, day-of operations, and clean-up with the support of PTO and volunteer.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Each year during the **first week of May**, schools across the nation celebrate **Teacher Appreciation Week** — a special time to recognize and honor the dedication, hard work, and love our teachers and staff bring to St. John Paul II Catholic School. With the support of our school families, we plan a variety of activities throughout the week to show our appreciation.

Teacher Appreciation Coordinator Responsibilities

The Teacher Appreciation Coordinator works with parents and the PTO to plan and carry out special events and activities throughout the week to celebrate our amazing SJPII faculty and staff.

Responsibilities include:

- ❖ Organize daily activities, meals, treats, and small gifts for staff throughout Teacher Appreciation Week.
- ❖ Coordinate with parent volunteers to help plan, donate, and assist with each day's events.
- ❖ Work with the PTO to ensure events are well-communicated and executed smoothly.
- ❖ Create a joyful and meaningful experience for teachers and staff in gratitude for their dedication and service.

Non-Event Fundraisers

RaiseRight Fundraising Program

RaiseRight is a simple and convenient way to support **St. John Paul II Catholic School** through your everyday shopping. By purchasing digital or physical gift cards for items like groceries, gas, clothing, dining, and more, a percentage of each purchase (typically between **2% and 16%**, depending on the retailer) goes directly to **SJPII's PTO**.

Bonus for Families: 75% of the rebate earned from your purchases will be applied as a credit toward your child's **2026-2027 tuition**.

The earning period will be communicated to families once it has been determined.

How to Get Started:

1. Visit **RaiseRight.com/enroll** or download the **RaiseRight app**.
2. Select **"Join a Program."**
3. Enter **SJPII's Enrollment Code: L48AADC927211**
4. Complete your account setup and follow the two-step verification process.

Payment Options:

1. Pay Online with Your Bank Account

From your Account page: go to **Settings > Payment Options > Add Bank Account**. Follow the prompts to securely link your bank account. **Fee:** \$0.29 per transaction.

2. Pay Online with a Credit Card

- **Visa, Mastercard, and Discover** are accepted. Option to securely save your card for future use. **Fee:** 2.6% per transaction.

Three Easy Ways to Shop:

1. eGift Cards (eCards):

- Instantly delivered and stored in your **RaiseRight Wallet**.
- Easy to scan in-store from your phone or send as gifts.
- Schedule deliveries for future occasions or send immediately as eGifts.

2. Physical Gift Cards:

- Traditional plastic gift cards shipped to **SJPII** and then delivered to you (3–5 business days after the Coordinator places the order).
- Great for gifts and helpful as visual reminders of available funds.
- Physical card order dates will be determined and shared by the **RaiseRight Coordinator**.

3. Reloadable Gift Cards:

- Reload funds onto physical cards purchased through **RaiseRight** (available for 125+ brands).
- Perfect for regular expenses like groceries, gas, and dining.
- Easily reload through the website or app and track balances in your Wallet.

Follow RaiseRight for Extra Savings:

- **Facebook:** @RaiseRight, **Instagram:** @RaiseRightFundraising.

RaiseRight Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Set and communicate physical gift card order dates.
- Place orders on behalf of SJPII families.
- Promote RaiseRight as an easy, ongoing fundraiser to help maximize participation and benefits for our school community.

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops is a simple way to support **St. John Paul II Catholic School** through everyday purchases. Participating brands offer Box Tops that can be easily scanned using the **Box Tops for Education app** — no more clipping required!

Invite Others to Join:

Know someone who isn't participating yet? Encourage them to sign up using our school's referral code: **H9805UG2**. SJPII will earn **up to 50 Bonus Box Tops** when they scan their first receipt!

Stay Connected:

Follow **Box Tops for Education** on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for special offers and bonus

opportunities.

Wondering Which Brands Participate?

Check the app for a current list of all eligible products and brands.

Every Box Top helps support our school — thank you for participating!

Loyalty Card Linking Programs

These simple programs allow you to support **St. John Paul II Catholic School** through your everyday grocery shopping — at no additional cost to you! Just link your store loyalty cards to SJPII, and a portion of your purchases will benefit our school.

Please note: All loyalty cards must be re-linked **each August** to continue earning rewards for SJPII.

- **Harris Teeter** – Donates **\$10 per linked HT Plus membership** through the Together in Education program.
- **Food Lion** – Link your **MVP Card** using school code **214115**.
- **Lowe's Foods** – Visit rewards.lowesfoods.com and select “**Cart to Class.**” Search for and select **St. John Paul II Catholic School** to link your card.

Spirit Wear Website

For all your **SJPII Spirit Wear** needs, visit our online store:

<https://www.bloomwithfaithco.com>

Show your school pride in style!

Volunteer Requirements and Opportunities

Volunteer Hour Requirements

Parent involvement is a vital part of the success of **St. John Paul II Catholic School** and is a long-standing tradition in Catholic education. Volunteer service not only helps keep tuition costs manageable but also enriches our school community and strengthens the partnership between home and school. Additionally, students take pride in seeing their families actively engaged in school life!

Like most diocesan schools nationwide, each family is required to complete **25 hours of verified volunteer service** in support of **SJPII activities** by the **last day of school each year**.

Unfulfilled Hours

Families who have not completed their 25-hour requirement by **June 30th** will receive notification by email. Any **unfulfilled hours** will be billed at a rate of **\$25 per hour**, and the balance will be charged to your **FACTS account**.

Online Volunteer Hour Tracking

All **SJPII volunteer hours** must be submitted through **Track it Forward** to ensure accurate tracking and fulfillment of volunteer requirements.

How to Register for Track it Forward:

1. Visit www.trackitforward.com.
2. Click on **"Find Existing Site."**
3. In the search box, type: **St John Paul II Catholic School Southern Pines, NC.**
4. On the next screen, scroll down and select **"Don't have an account yet? Click here to register."**
5. Enter your email address and create a password to set up your account.

You may also download the **Track it Forward app** for convenient access.

Sandy Kemple | sandy.kemple@gmail.com

Important Guidelines:

- **All available and approved volunteer opportunities** will be listed on Track it Forward.
- Families are required to **sign up and submit hours through Track it Forward. 25 hours per year per family required.**
- All volunteers must complete the **Diocese of Raleigh Safe Environment Training** before volunteering on campus.
- Volunteer hours will be reviewed and approved monthly by the Volunteer Coordinator.
For questions about approvals, please contact **Sandy Kemple**.

A Note on Volunteer Commitment:

Our school events, activities, and enrichment opportunities rely on the generosity of our volunteers. If you sign up for a service opportunity, please honor that commitment as students, teachers, and fellow families are counting on your support. If you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please make every effort to find a replacement.

Volunteer Conduct Requirements and Guidelines

Volunteers play an important role in the success of **St. John Paul II Catholic School**. To maintain a safe, professional, and respectful environment for our students, faculty, and fellow parents, we ask all volunteers to follow these guidelines:

Confidentiality

As a volunteer, you serve in a position of trust. **All personal information about students, faculty, and families must remain confidential.** Conversations, observations, and knowledge about students' behavior, academic progress, or personal situations are **not to be shared outside of school**. If you have any concerns, please refer them directly to the principal.

Training Requirements

Depending on your level of contact with students, you may be required to complete **Safe Environment Training (SET)** and a **Diocese of Raleigh background check** before volunteering.

SET is available both **in-person and online**:

<https://dioceseofraleigh.safeenvironment.org/login/index.php>

Signing In / Out

For the safety of our students and staff, **all volunteers must sign in and out at the front office** each time they visit the school. Please also indicate the purpose of your visit.

Dress Code

Volunteers are expected to dress in a manner that is **modest, neat, and appropriate for a school environment**. For safety reasons, we ask that **preschool-age children not accompany parents** when volunteering during school hours.

Questions?

We are happy to assist you! For questions, please contact:

Nancy Sheets | Front Office | **910-692-6241**

Sandy Kemple | Volunteer Coordinator | **sandy.kemple@gmail.com**

Right to Amend

The PTO or Principal of St. John Paul II Catholic School reserves the right to amend this handbook as needed. Any changes will be communicated to families via email.

A Final Note of Gratitude

Your time and talents make a lasting impact on our school community. Even after fulfilling your required hours, your continued involvement is always welcome and greatly appreciated. **Your service enriches not only your child's experience but the experience of all SJPII students.** Thank you for your partnership and dedication!