

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Parents,

In these unique times when we are not only troubled by personal family problems but also by the world-wide assault of COVID 19, I encourage you to cry out from your troubled boat, “Lord, help me”, Be as insistent as was the Canaanite woman and the Lord will touch you but perhaps in ways different from your request.

The Lord through the request of Mary already sent us a **Sign**. We all prayed the Hail Mary for good weather. We had good weather through the Triduum even though rain was forecast. In this COVID 19 time, the Sacraments are harder to present indoors to large numbers. God blessed us.

Preparing For School

Never have I seen so much preparation for the school year. Parents rightfully struggle on what to do. Do we home school, do we send them to school, or do we find some combination of both?

St. Joseph’s rural setting is a bonus for us. We have much outdoor space. We will be setting up three tents with additional 24 chairs each on the soccer field so teachers can be outside more easily. This may look like the old west with everyone wearing masks but not trying to rob anyone.

The Principal and I have made direct contact with Mr. Joseph Diorio, the Health Commissioner of Portage County. Recently he ran a powerful meeting that was informative and most helpful. Mr. Holzapfel and I both participated.

The first 30 days are going to be the most difficult. There are so many changes and it will not work all at once. The teachers, the administration, and the students, and the parents are all in a learning situation. As one is patient when children are learning, the same patience is required of persons with each other. We shall communicate as quickly as we receive information and function as rapidly as new directives develop.

Parents often want to shield their children from all adversity. I grew up at the beginning of the Second World War and my parents taught us to participate in the adversity and did not simply protect us. Assist your children to grow within this challenge because we all know that this adversity is a continuing experience in life.

During this first month we’ll continue to have Grotto Masses on Saturday evening weather permitting. Masses with the children will also be in the Grotto when the weather is gracious.