

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 30, 2020

## **Dear Parishioners and Parents,**

Monday, St. Joseph School opens for the academic year 2020-2021. The preparation has been intense, conditioned by the challenge of COVID 19. Some parents have pulled their students out of classes over their concern. Others have newly enrolled recognizing that the school carefully planned, but nothing in life is certain. Changes are the fabric of life.

The Gospel story reflects this in the time of Jesus. Shortly after Jesus had complimented Peter for recognizing him as Messiah, he reproved Peter for being a stumbling block as Jesus walks toward the coming ordeals in Jerusalem. A few days later, Peter, James, and John are chosen to witness Jesus endorsed by His Father and glorified. Changes are endemic to human existence.

The children of our parish and many others coming from St. Matthew and other churches remind us of parish obligations. St. Joseph Parish has given a parishioner rate to many families based on their participation at St. Joseph or at the Catholic church of their attendance. The full cost of educating a child at St. Joseph School is \$6,300 a year. This rate, 45% lower than the actual cost, and depends on your active participation in the church.

What does an active parishioner mean? First and foremost it means bringing the children to services on most weekends. However, today's viral attack makes this more difficult and perhaps at times impossible. However, parents should make certain there is a religious atmosphere in the family. Do you say prayers before meal? Do you say a night prayer? Do you thank God in the morning for family and country? Without your support within the family our education is only half complete.

An active member also makes contributions to the parish normally at the Mass. Parishioners financial circumstances differ. Many parishioners help in kind by participating in the fundraisers such as the auction, the fish-frys, and the festival. Thank you.

The obligation for attending weekend services is suspended until the first of the year. However, the agreement to be an active parishioner to receive the active parishioner rate is part of your commitment. Few of us miss the physical meal of food daily. We need the spiritual food from God, the Eucharist, to help sustain the Spirit within us. As the school must be nimble to address COVID 19, you must also be nimble in addressing the spiritual needs of your children in your family.

I strongly encourage parents whose children come to St. Joseph to ponder seriously how they can assist their children in growing in the spiritual dimension that makes them truly MEN and WOMEN, God's children.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.

August 30, 2020