

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Families,

We are coming close to finishing the year in the shadow of COVID 19. The Lord teaches us flexibility, openness to change, and deep humility. God is using a “mighty mite” to find the Lord in multiple different ways.

This week presents to us Ash Wednesday. I suggest that in church or at home that you take your thumb and inscribe the sign of the cross upon your forehead with the words, “I am dust and to dust I shall return”. With this action you will receive the grace of Ash Wednesday. Do it often during Lent.

Consider coming to a weekday Mass or if COVID still is a concern, receive communion before the weekend Masses. I give communion and a prayer 20 minutes before each weekend Mass.

This Saturday 20 of our young children will receive the Sacrament of “I’m Sorry” for the first time. The Lord embraces us in the Sacrament. Recall that Pope Francis has said that three expressions need to permeate our thinking. These are: “Thank You”, “I’m Sorry”, and “May I”. Say these often to God and those around you and life becomes more grace filled.

The Parish is moving resolutely toward the Feast of St. Joseph in this Year of St. Joseph. March 19 we will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at 7:00 pm in our parish. While this is a Sacrament ordinarily given by the Bishop, this year each priest has received delegation to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Feast of St. Joseph is on a Friday. Two days later on Sunday the children who have recently received the Sacrament of I’m Sorry will receive their First Communion. This will take place at 2:00 pm Sunday, March 21st.

Since we are still under the concerns of COVID, the Sacraments of First Confession, Confirmation, and First Communion, are restricted in numbers to maintain social distancing. Parents and their children hopefully will attend. The family is the ultimate unit and reflects the Family of the Trinity. God is the giver and sustainer of all life.

In each of these events I hope the parish will rejoice together. These young children and young people receiving the Sacraments of the Church, are the result of the Sacrament of Matrimony and union of husband and wife. Notice how the Sacraments of the Church become the action items of our life.

Pope Francis in his Exhortation on the Joy of Love reflects this in the opening statement. “The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church. ... The desire to marry and form a family remains vibrant especially among young people and this is an inspiration to the Church.” May our parish of St. Joseph rejoice in the grace that the Lord gives to our families and to our children.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
February 14, 2021