

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – OCTOBER 22, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Last week I spoke with you and also put in the bulletin the good news that our school is growing both in excellence and in number. Our church has also gone up in number over the last several years. However, we know there are a lot of our friends and relatives who only rarely **Keep Holy the Sabbath** by attending weekend services. How can we be apostles like Peter, Paul, and John to bring the Lord's presence in Sacrament to others?

This week I have sent home the following letter to all the parents and guardians of our children in school. This letter is meant not only for parents who are Catholics but also for those of other faiths. **Keep Holy the Sabbath Day** is fundamental to a growing faith in God.

To: Parents and Guardians of the Children

From: Fr. Tom Acker, S.J., Administrator St. Joseph Parish

Concerning: Importance of Keeping Holy the Sabbath Day

Thank you very much for entrusting your children to St Joseph School. You are the principal educators of your children and we are here to assist and serve you. Our constant school goal is this: **A rural oasis of superior education blended with Faith**. We believe you have sent your children to our school because of this vision.

The last part of that vision says "blended with Faith." You and we strongly believe in God and the various ways in which he has spoken to us. On every coin is imprinted "In God We Trust." In the Pledge of Allegiance we say: We are one nation under God.

At one of our recent prayer exercises with the children, the focus was on **Keep Holy the Sabbath and Honor Your Father and Mother**. It is not only superior education we strive to give to your children, but faith in God and God's wise Commandments. St. Joseph School needs your help to be successful and you need our help in giving education blended with faith.

I want especially to encourage you to go to the church of your choice once a week, normally on the weekend. As often we say to the children **Keep Holy the Sabbath**, it does not take effect unless you practice that Commandment. Children cannot get to a church on the weekend without you.

Regardless of what we say about the Commandments, it is what you do that the children believe. I strongly encourage you to go to church services on Saturday evenings or Sunday as a way of supporting our mission and our common goal to give your children superior education blended with Faith. *Together We Can Make a Difference.*

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
October 22, 2017