

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JULY 30, 2017

Dear Families and Parishioners,

Last Sunday I framed the Liturgy surrounding the Eucharist (Mass) in its most fundamental meaning – **A Sacrifice**. There is scarcely any religion known that does not have a sacrificial ritual. This sacrificial ritual results from belief in the Deity and with desire of people to be within the deity's favor.

The ritual sacrifice within religions is basically similar. There is a material **presentation** made to the deity by means of a **consecration**. Then the gift is partially returned and **eaten** by the giver. These rituals of sacrifice are carried on today in the Jewish Passover, sacrifices at temples throughout the Hindu Faith, and indeed in a special way at the Catholic celebration of Mass.

Our liturgical sacrifice, however, is no longer a bloody sacrifice of a living animal. Our sacrifice is in remembrance of one perfect sacrifice made by Jesus on the cross as the Lamb of God. We bring ourselves to the service and also our gifts. The bread and wine represents all this and these gifts are consecrated and made holy. Finally, the consecrated gifts are then given back to us as food and we become holy because God becomes within us. The liturgy of our Mass is fundamentally a **sacrifice**, one we do in memory of the last supper as directed by the Lord.

Continually Addressing Deferred Maintenance

The Church: the plasterers are working in the balcony repairing the loose plaster that resulted from water damage of years before. They have already completed the hallway in front of the church that goes to the basement. These areas will then be painted. A bit later they will be placing scaffolding in the church at the three pillars and removing the loose plaster and paint and have them repainted.

The Rectory: Repairs became imperative. All the plumbing on the 2nd floor was leaking and this has now been replaced with modern plumbing. This then allowed us to continue working on the 1st floor where all the offices and reception areas are that serve the parish's needs. The office for Sandy Blazewick, and the office for Tracy Ferrett, Missy Campbell, and Fred Matthews are also complete. The reception (living room) and dining room receive paint this week and then the restored floor will become evident. A new rug has been ordered for the hallway and for the stairway to the second floor. The electrical system is brought up to safety standards.

The School: The entire library is under renovation. A drop ceiling has been installed, air conditioning, and the floor is to be sanded. A good deal of new furniture will also be ordered and an increase number of computers for student use. We have also contracted to have all the windows of the 1960 school building replaced with double paned glass. All the caulking which is disintegrating will be replaced with modern material that should last 20 years. Cost for all this school work is approximately \$114,000.

Cemetery: More trees will need to be removed because of either old age or infected with the Ash Tree Bore. We are also making use of the trees that had to be removed by maintaining the trunks and having them sculptured by a professional tree carver. Already, the entrance to the cemetery is guarded by an owl on top of tree left of the entrance. See the pictures in this issue.

Your dollars so generously given during the Gaudete and others that we have collected are being used effectively. We do not hoard money, we use it for the betterment of the parish. Thank you for your generosity.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
July 30, 2017