

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 6, 2017

Dear Families and Parishioners,

When I was a young boy I could never understand the Transfiguration. It appeared like an episode out of nowhere. I was too young to understand all the reflections and symbols contained in that story.

Jesus climbs a high mountain even as Moses climbed the Mountain of Sinai. God began talking to Jesus and Jesus face beamed like the sun even as it happened with Moses in the Old Testament. Then Moses and Elijah appear, three eminent figures of the Old Testament. Finally the Divinity shows itself as a great cloud casting a shadow over them even as the cloud was the sign of Divinity in the Old Testament for Moses to led the people through the desert. And finally, the Voice: “This is my beloved Son listen to Him.” The Old Testament recedes and Jesus represents the New Covenant.

The three apostles with Jesus were thrown into deep consternation, overcome by the event, and fearful of this extraordinary display of God’s power. One can imagine the apostles saying to themselves: “What happened!!”

Parish Finance Committee and Parish Council

In the last 2 weeks of July both the Finance Committee and Parish Council met. The Parish Finance committee found all the parish finance records in good order. The financial report, as well as the Cemetery Report are included in this week’s bulletin following Diocesan policy.

Allow me to note just a few items of finance. Line number 73 appears to show a deficit. This line speaks to the continued deferred maintenance we are doing last year using money collected some years before in the Gaudete Campaign. Line 74 shows a surplus. This is primarily due to the stock market holdings of the church, the school, and the cemetery.

The Parish Council meeting was on Tuesday, July 21st. Council reviewed the continuing deferred maintenance upgrades as reported in last week’s bulletin. They accepted the vision for the school as one of exceptional educational excellence blended with Faith. This excellence comes primarily from our teachers and not like the public schools always wanting new buildings at public expense.

Youth Ministry for High School Students Continues to Challenge. Our high school students go to at least 4 separate high schools, (Field, Waterloo, Hoban, and St. Thomas). It is difficult to develop an esprit de corps among them. The concept of a community center would not only help our grade school but also serve as a convening location for high school students. In place of deferred maintenance of the Day Care Center, envision a community center also fitted for simple athletics. The meeting ended with this positive thinking.

Hearing Deficiencies and Hearing Devices at the Parish

Many of the parishioners including your administrator wear a hearing aid. 90% of people who have received hearing aids within the last 4 years have what is called a hearing loop coil in their hearing aid. This device in the hearing aid picks up direct transmissions from newer TVs or from hearing loops installed at various locations.

Our parish is now looking at installing a hearing loop in the entire church. This is called a Tele-coil loop. It is accessed through a small button or rocker switch on your hearing aid. You then hear what is said in the church broadcast directly into your hearing aid.

Let me make a request. I would like to know how many people in our parish have hearing aids of recent vintage equipped with a hearing loop coil. I am exploring installing a “hearing loop” in the church for people who have a difficult time hearing in our church during the liturgies. Would this loop be helpful to you in our parish? Please place a check mark on the query in the back of the church. More of this in future bulletins.