

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – OCTOBER 1, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Families,

The Youngstown Diocese has asked the leaders of each church to take accurate weekend Saturday Vigil, and Sunday Mass attendance counts beginning this Saturday, September 30th. This material from every parish is sent to the Diocese to be collated every month. In November, each Deanery (this is the Portage Deanery) will review the Mass attendance numbers to formulate a Mass time plan for their area. The Bishop's letter on this is part of the bulletin.

In the same vein, there is another item that affects our church and our school. St. Joseph gives a special rate for grades K through 7 to those families who are active Catholics. An active Catholic is demonstrated by attendance at liturgical services Saturday or Sunday. The only way to count this is by keeping track of the envelopes. Therefore, it is very important for you to turn in your envelopes each week. Liturgy is good spirituality.

Parents of children have a special need for coming to Mass. The Catholic Heritage is principally carried on by fidelity to the Sacraments and to the basic Commandment "Keep Holy the Sabbath". Even Jesus followed the prescription of keeping holy the Sabbath by going to the Synagogue each Saturday.

The number of envelopes turned in each weekend and the number attending services will always be quite different. One envelope suffices for all the family. If you do not have envelopes or have lost them, please contact Sandy for envelopes.

The School Physically Upgraded

This Saturday should see the completion of the new windows in the school built in 1958. The windows replace the original frames and single paned windows. The new windows are E glass, double paned, and energy efficient. For instance, when the temperature was 88 outside at approximately 2:30 PM, the temperature inside was 80 degrees without any air conditioning.

Each room will have two windows that open to the outside. One of the openings in each room will be used to exhaust new floor air conditioners while the other one can be opened and closed as desired. Once the season is over for air conditioning, a substitute window will be put where the air conditioner is. This allows for both windows to be opened.

The cost for these windows is approximately \$76,000. The Cafaro Foundation of Youngstown, Ohio has given us a major gift of \$100,000 over three years to cover the cost of the windows and the renovations in the library. The library with its central air conditioning is a very gracious place for meetings.

Grotto Masses

We will continue to have Grotto Masses on Saturday at 5:00 PM during October as long as the weather permits. The Grotto flag is usually put up by around 12:00 noon indicating there is a Grotto Mass if weather permits.

New Eating Trays for Our Food Program

Bill and Jean Seay, owners of the Equipment Connection, donated 150 new eating trays. Erin Haws, the chef for our eating program, is very happy with the new trays. They wash easier and dry more quickly.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
October 1, 2017