

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Last Sunday Jesus told the parable about the King who rules the Kingdom of Heaven. The story concerned forgiveness and when forgiveness is not extended to others, the King will exercise justice in its place. In simple words the King extended forgiveness to a person with a huge debt who denied mercy and extracted justice from a lesser servant. The King recalled the first servant and because he did not reciprocate mercy to his fellow servant, the Lord now extracted justice. Give mercy to others or God will deliver justice to you.

The lesson from today's parable is equally startling. The Lord in the Kingdom of Heaven does not follow human rules of fairness and equality. Rather, he gives to each person who is willing to work the joys of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first reading from Isaiah answers our bewilderment: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." Isaiah 55:8.

Portage County Report Card Results

Last Saturday the Record Courier carried the Portage County Report Card results for public schools. One of the important categories relates to preparedness for success as one moves into high school and college. Our local schools are showing D or C in this category. St. Joseph is not listed because it is a private school. However, in the National Iowa Test Scores, which St. Joseph takes, the school ranks in the top 20% of the nation. We intend to grow in excellence and Faith in God.

St. Joseph School is accelerating the pace. We intend to be the small rural school with superior education blended with Faith. This is our constant agenda.

Within the last week we have brought Chrome Books for all our students in 4th grade through 7th grade. Principal Beth Frank has purchased 4 Promethean Smart Boards which are state of the art for teaching technology. The school has contracted Spectrum toward bringing fiber optic lines to the school giving us faster and better connectivity. New double paned windows are being installed in the 1950 building addition at the school.

Principal Beth Frank has assembled excellent teachers. Superior teachers are key to advanced education. However, it is important to have the parents fully engaged and supportive. Supportive parents, vibrant teachers, solid administrators lead to superior education. We do not need new buildings or extensive levies but rather the excitement and vision for leading in education.

Tele Coil Technology for Impaired Hearing People

St. Joseph Church has ordered a Tele Coil for the church. This is new technology for those with hearing aids. Most new hearing aids have tele coil capabilities. If your hearing aid has tele coil technology, then when the tele coil is placed in the church around the first or second week of October, you can hear the liturgy, the homily, and the music directly broadcast into your hearing aid. We will be one of the first churches in the area with this capability.

If your hearing aid does not have Tele Coil technology, Advanced Ear Gear will be glad to assist and obtain this technology. They are the ones who are installing the Tele Coil. More information will come in the next one or two bulletins.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
September 24, 2017