

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – DECEMBER 3, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Friday the Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of Mary. This Feast Day speaks of the conception of Mary who is to be the Mother of Jesus. Her parents are Joachim and Anne. The stained glass windows over the two side entrances to the church are Sts. Joachim and Anne.

The Church professes that the conception of Mary was unique in its effect through the special providence of God. Mary was free from the first point of her conception from human moral frailty. The earthly form in us is self-seeking while the image and likeness form from God is geared to serve others. We find by our very nature a conflict, self versus selfless. This conflict never took place in Mary by the supreme favor of God himself. She has no moral discrepancy because she was to be the purest vessel holding the Divine Person. In the words of William Wordsworth, an English Poet, “Mary is human natures solitary boast.”

School Information Sent to Alumni/ae

Parishioners and students from St. Joseph have many fond memories of their time here. A year ago we began to send twice a year information about the school and also about the parish. This was received most favorably.

Inserted in this bulletin is Volume 2 No. 2 of these letters sent to people out of our parish boundaries. The letter sent in November is one of financial request if the people so choose. Last year we received over \$20,000 in gifts from people with gracious memories of their church and school years.

I wanted to put this letter in the bulletin this week so the parishioners could see what we are doing. We continue to advertise our school as a **rural oasis of superior education blended with Faith**. If any of our parishioners have a desire to make a contribution toward our school at this once-a-year time, you are most welcome. You could use one of the white Special Occasion envelopes in the back of your envelope box and just mark it School Contribution.

Eucharistic Minsters Renewal and New

The Diocese directs new and renewal training for Eucharistic Minister approximately every three years. As our parish moves into distribution by intinction of the Body and Blood of Christ, it is time to do both renewals and invite new Eucharistic Minister. The criteria for a Eucharistic Minister require regular in attendance at weekend Masses, the Sacrament of Confirmation, and recognized by the parish as a committed Catholic.

Let me establish two times for this renewal. I propose a **one hour renewal on Sunday, December 10th after the 8:00 AM Mass and again after the 10:30 AM Mass**. You need to only attend one of these sessions which will last one hour. It will take place in the church.

For those who wish to become new Eucharistic Ministers, call Sandy at the rectory and state your interest. We will set up a special time for new Eucharistic Ministers and for those previous Eucharistic Ministers who cannot attend either of the sessions on Sunday, December 10th.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
December 3, 2017