

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – FEBRUARY 25, 2018

## Dear Parishioners and Families,

The Gospel today is of Peter, James, and John having witnessed the Transfiguration, having been told the Son of Man (Jesus) would rise after death, were then told they had to keep this knowledge silent until **IT** happened. The last line says “they kept questioning among themselves what rising from the dead meant.” Every funeral service that we attend places that same question before us, What does rising from the dead mean? What does it mean for me?

Faith comes to us without full understanding of our continuing the journey. Our journey will continue with hills and valleys, rains and sunshine, joyful days and sleepless nights. Faith gives a destination but it does not alleviate the journey to get there.

The **practice** of the Faith assists us in keeping the destination clearly in mind. When the practice of Faith diminishes, we lose the vigor and the vision of that Faith. In the depths of our heart may we hear that voice from Heaven saying, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”

### **Doctor’s Medical Advice Concerning Reception from the Common Cup**

Brian Cain, M.D., who oversaw a very large family practice and now has his own individual practice, wrote me the following letter concerning drinking from the same Cup. I excerpt only a couple of paragraphs but everything is in the same context.

*“The population of a parish is identical to a family practice. It is a diverse group of people with varying health concerns and hygiene habits. Most parishioners are quite capable of casual exposure to bacteria or virus particles and the critical mass to develop illness is not easily exceeded, but the elderly, frail or otherwise immune compromised are at much greater risk of severe illness. Additionally, infected parishioners fail to understand the consequences of their own communicability at inopportune times.*

*Potentially the most worrisome infection risk to parishioners is the most insidious. Most viral infections have an incubation period after inoculation prior to the development of symptoms. Infection reproduces in the body but the host does not feel ill. Actually, the feeling of being sick is related to our body’s response to recognized infection. To that point, most people may shed infectious material several days prior to being aware of illness, further spreading infection.*

*The policy of wiping the cup and rotating it does not begin to adequately reduce the microbial load or potential for spreading infection to those most at risk. The alcohol content in wine is not enough to sterilize, and the cumulative mix of bacteria and virus by the end of communion service is certainly high.*

*It is my hope the diocese embraces the option of intinction and a shift in delivering the Body and Blood of Christ. I believe it is a safer method and not a significant shift in Church procedure. I particularly like the image of reuniting both forms into a complete delivery of Jesus into my body.”* Brian Cain, M.D.

I add two notes: We have discontinued the Communion Cup based on the advice of several doctors and health professionals including the note above. In addition, several Eucharistic Ministers has spoken to me about consuming the remains in the chalice after everyone else has received. They have noted that sometimes the remains are ‘murky’ and the last exercise to drink the remaining Precious Blood is physiologically difficult. Their experience does not add to the joy of the Sacrament.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
February 25, 2018