

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Dear Parishioners and Families,

The Gospel today from Mark tells about the very first days of Jesus public mission. He is inundated with people. Indeed, His work is with people who are struggling and downhearted. Jesus realized that he has to recoup his strength and his spirit. Mark reports, “Rising very early before dawn, he left (Simon’s house) and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.”

Simon’s house for him was not a safe haven because everyone wanted to touch him and be cured. This was too often in his life. Today he runs off to a deserted place. At other times he retreats into the mountains to pray. Again and again Scripture reports that on the Sabbath Day he went to the Synagogue.

I see this enclave of St. Joseph with its church, its Grotto, its school, and its cemetery, its Stations of the Cross as **An Oasis of Godly Tranquility that Refreshes the Spirit**. If Jesus needed this, so do we. I hope that you can always take back to your home the peace and tranquility you receive by going out of the dessert into this oasis born in 1831, St. Joseph Church and Village.

Painting in the Church and in the Rectory

Tom and Steve Marchand saw me on Monday morning and said they could not paint the church columns and adjoining walls with the time that they had. They have now scheduled that painting between May 14th and June 1st, 2018. They have however painted in the balcony and also are completing the hallway in the office part of the rectory. They are true professionals and their work is excellent.

Financial Report

Last week and this week the Finance Committee and Parish Council Committee met. You will find the report of both meetings in the bulletin. The Diocese requests we put the financial report in twice a year. You will find the material for income and disbursements in this bulletin. You should be very pleased with the accounts from both committees and this financial report.

Parish Sends \$5,000 to Jeremie, Haiti

Monday the parish sent \$5,000 to the Jeremie Diocese in Haiti. This goes directly to the Jesuit Bishop, Bishop Gontrand, S.J.. I thank the Portage County Bank for sending this gift from the parish at no cost. I have sent a note of thanks to President Richard Coe.

Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith

Next Saturday, February 11th, at 10:30 we will have the 1st session on Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith in the rectory. It appears that we will have over 10 people who are interested in learning more about our Faith in this 4 session directed reading course. If you are interested in coming and have not informed us, please give us a call at the rectory. Or, you can simply show up because you are always welcome.