

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MARCH 4, 2018

## Dear Parishioners and Families,

Written into the very gut of the human person made in the image and likeness of God is this: **do good and avoid evil**. The Israelites, received more explicit directions through Abraham and Moses. learned that we are to “**love God and love our neighbor as ourself.**” Thursday’s Gospel story recounted by Luke 16:19-31 speaks of the rich man who did not love his neighbor but ignored him.

Through the Bishop’s Appeal, Bishop Murry asks us not to be blind to those who live on the margins of our home. The Bishop does not ask us to go around looking for those who are struggling because these are often known to him already through the Catholic Charities Services. Our task is to offer a gift through the Annual Bishop’s Appeal to assist those lying at our door but unseen.

St. Joseph Parish has always met its goal since my time here. On the other hand, the number of donors does not represent the fullness of our parish. We will meet our monetary goal. The greater goal is to have the fullness of our parish contributing if only a bit.

If you have not been solicited through the mail from the Diocese, please take one of the envelopes at the end of the pews or in the back of the church, fill out your name and address and a donation. Our school children at St. Joseph are now collecting coins throughout Lent and these will be joined together as one gift from the school children at St. Joseph. Please become a contributor to the Bishop’s Appeal as your way of helping people who lie at your doorstep who are hard to see.

Just a moment ago Sandy told me the number of contributors so far from our parish is 45. Let us give a surge this week so the number goes way above 150 or 200.

### Jesus Had a Deep Emotional Spirit

We often think of Jesus as placid and always in control of himself in every situation. We know it is often our emotions that drive us and at times take us out of ourselves. Allow me to present a few incidences in Jesus life where his emotions clearly entered into his actions very deeply.

Matthew 21: 12-13 certainly gives us one of those occasions. Jesus walked into the Temple at the Passover time and was clearly upset to see all the commerce that was taking place in God’s holy space. He was very incensed. All the evangelists tells us Jesus made a whip out of cords and drove the merchants out of the Temple area and overturned the tables of the moneychangers. Jesus was clearly agitated and the strength of his person as well as his zeal prevented anyone from stopping him.

Another scene comes to mind as presented by Mark 8: 11-13. The Pharisees came forward and asked him to give them a sign from Heaven. Again and again they had asked for signs and he had given them many, but none seemed to be enough for them. Mark then writes, “*Jesus sighed from the depth of His spirit*”. He told them that no more signs would be given to them, and abruptly left them.

Luke 19: 41-44 presents another scene. Jesus comes over the brow of the hill on his trip from Jericho and there Jerusalem lies before him. The emotion of the view of the City of God caught up with him. He wept. Jesus foresaw the rejection that he was going to undergo and this would be the destruction of so many people.

The Agony in the Garden (Matt 26:36-38) also presents Jesus at a low ebb. He envisions what is going to happen to him and he sweats blood, asking the Father to remove this cross from him, “*But not my will but yours be done.*” Jesus is fully human and his emotions break forth. Our emotions also often break forth. Jesus knows what is in each one of us for He experienced times of deep emotion.