

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – APRIL 29, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

The land of Jesus was clearly grape country and wine was a gracious and festive product from the grapes. Jesus first public miracle was changing water into wine. He talked about viniculture. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus speaks the words, "By their fruits you shall know them".

Jesus describes his Father as the vine grower and dresser. Jesus is the vine and we are the fruit that comes from staying connected to the vine. If we become detached from the vine, there is no fruit. We become a dead twig, and we drop off discarded.

At the last super, Jesus takes wine and transforms it into his life giving presence. Jesus calls it blood because blood is life and vitality. The man and woman who have blood in their veins are alive, active, and living. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive the actual presence of Jesus, the resurrected alive presence of Jesus. We stay connected so we do not dry up and become a twig to be discarded.

Receiving the Eucharist on Both the Form of Body and Blood

The theology in receiving a Host and the theology in receiving the Blood is clear to us. Christ is not divided. If we receive the Host we receive the total Lord and if we receive his Blood we receive the total Lord. However, the Church highly recommends receiving both Body and Blood because of its sign value.

Two weeks ago Bishop Murry and I had a substantive discussion regarding the parish receiving the blood of Christ by Intinction. We were discussing the American Bishop Document of 2017. The question is not only Intinction but the manner by which Intinction is distributed.

On behalf of the parish, I asked for faculties for Intinction. He said he would consider this. Late last week the Bishop wrote me: "I have written to the Prefect of Divine Worship to gain clarity on the matter of Intinction. When I hear from him, I will let you know." Consequently, we are in a waiting period.

New Fans Have Arrived for the Church and Painting Delayed

St. Joseph Church is not air conditioned nor does it make a lot of sense to do so. On the other hand, several people agreed it could be made more comfortable by investing in new fans with larger blades and more modern technology. These fans have arrived and will be installed as soon as our laborers have time.

The slow speeds, the larger blades, and dropping the fans down a few feet should allow for much better circulation.

I have also heard from the Marchand brothers. Unfortunately, Steve Marchand has to undergo some medical procedures which will limit his agility. Thus, the painting of the pillars is now deferred until sometime in August or September.