

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – APRIL 8, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

Toward the end of the Gospel passage read in today's Mass, we hear the words of Jesus expressed to all the Apostles assembled on the Sunday after Easter, "*Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*" While these words of Jesus were spoken primarily to Thomas and friends, the words are really meant more for all of us.

I take these words more as a petition prayed to the Father asking a blessing on all those who believe in the Resurrection even though they did not and do not live during these events of 2,000 years ago. A blessing is a request made to God to bestow life and vitality on the one who is blest.

The heritage and belief in the Resurrection has been passed down to the Christian people living today. The Resurrection is the affirmation that life does not end with human death but rather takes on a new form in a world of persons who do not have bodies. We call this the World of Spirits. These are the angels, hopefully the good angles and not the evil spirits. A blessing and a petition from Jesus is always effective.

The fullness of St. Joseph Church on Holy Saturday and again on Easter Sunday was a powerful sign showing the efficacy of Jesus' blessing. Jesus entered the Upper Room mysteriously. When we receive Communion as a final part of the Sacrifice, Jesus enters us mysteriously. We truly believe that the living person of Christ is contained in the species of bread and wine with Communion. May this Faith in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Faith in the Resurrection grow in each one of us.

Thank You to All Who Made the Season of Lent and Holy Week Uplifting

The Season of Lent has touched each one of us in a special but often different ways. The Fish Fry meals with so many volunteers is an essential help to our school. I thank all of those who planned it, cooked and fried it, served it, and cleaned up afterward.

I thank Deacon Gies for presenting the Stations of the Cross throughout the Lenten period. The music during the Lenten time by our Contemporary Group and the Senior Choir as well as individual voices stirred the heart. I appreciate so much the work of the Sacristans all during the year but especially during the Easter Season when they have so much more to do. So many other people contribute including the servers at Mass, the ushers, the greeters, the readers, and the Communion Ministers.

I also want to thank you for your gracious and generous contributions to the parish, the gifts to the Bishops Appeal and the kind thoughts you presented especially to me. I want especially to note that the children's gift to the Bishops Appeal was \$431. These gifts came by way of their pennies, nickels and dimes and resemble the Widows Mite. St. Joseph Village is truly an Oasis of peace, tranquility, and generosity.

Monday, Feast of the Annunciation Transferred

The ordinary Feast Day for the announcement and request that Mary become the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God is celebrated on March 25th. This year that was on Palm Sunday. The Feast day is now moved to tomorrow, Monday, April 9th.