

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MAY 27, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

God will always remain mysterious to us. Mystery is part of our life not only in our natural setting but in the setting with God. The revelation of the Trinity of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a faith fact even though we cannot understand how there can be three persons but only one God.

Couples live in the mystery of their union and the always new excitement of their children growing and maturing. Listen to Pope Francis, *“The couple’s fruitful relationship becomes an image for understanding and describing the mystery of God himself, for in the Christian vision of the Trinity, God is contemplated as Father, Son, and the Spirit of love. The Triune God is a communion of love and the family is its living reflection.”* (The Joy of Love, #11.)

We learn more and more about the mysteries and learn to accept them as we grow. Again, listen to Pope Francis. “Grace acts in history; ordinarily it takes hold of us and transforms us progressively. If we reject this historical and progressive reality, we can actually refuse and block grace, even as we extol it by our words.” (Rejoice and Be Glad, #50).

The person who wants clear and distinct ideas for everything, cannot be a Christian. We live in a world that is full of mystery. God walks with us daily yet is immeasurably far above us. That in itself is one of our mysteries: God is beside us yet at the same time Lord of the High Heavens beyond our imagination. Each of us recognizes that we do not understand the Trinity, yet we believe. It is this Faith that grows progressively within us.

The Catholic Exponent

The Catholic Exponent is our Catholic newspaper in the Youngstown Diocese. This parish buys the subscription to the Catholic Exponent for all parishioners and thus it costs the individual family nothing. If you are not receiving the Catholic Exponent, please inform the parish office and we will make certain you are put on the subscription list. New members to the parish should especially note this.

Recent Improvements Around the Parish

During the week the Marchand Brothers and their team painted the pillars in the church and repaired cracks. Kyle Mudd finished the paving of the drive between the church and the rectory so that no water stands to cause puddles in the summer and slippery spots in the winter. Mudd Construction also developed the new seating in the Grotto, setting off the altar.

Joe Martell has hooked up the electricity in the Grotto so that when there is gracious weather, the Grotto Masses will have light. Several groups of women have been out planting flowers in front of the school, and along the Grotto. Lois Lang and Kim Jansen decorated the sanctuary of the church with flowers.

The new driveway, St. Joseph Way, is now in use by the buses and by the parents for drop off and pick up of the children. I thank all the men and women for all these gracious improvements that allow us to truly be in the Village of St. Joseph, a Rural Oasis of Prayer, Education, and a Restful Repose.

The Bishop’s Appeal and Bishop Murry

The Bishop’s Appeal was completed on Pentecost Sunday. St. Joseph Parish raised \$41,160 which is 30% over the goal. Thank you for your most generous response.

The information concerning the Bishop’s illness is somewhat positive. Recent bone marrow sample showed treatments are effective. Now the doctors are waiting to see if the marrow regenerates blood and platelets.