

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JUNE 3, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus found a way beyond our imagination to continue to stay with us even though he has ascended into heaven. His presence among us is maintained in the mystery of the Eucharist which we call the Body and Blood of Christ. The Body stands for the physical presence of a person. The Blood stands for life within the physical presence of a person. In this way Jesus is physically and alive present in the Eucharist.

Last week I mentioned that God's favor comes to us principally in community. The community is present when we join together at the celebration of the Mass which we call the Eucharistic meal. If you do not come to Mass as a community, people seldom receive Christ's physical presence unless they are sick and the Communion Ministers come to visit them.

We have just finished the celebration of Holy Communion for our young people. Most of the young people cannot come to Mass unless the parents bring them. Some people tell me they are upset by something that was said by some priest or other person and therefore they stop coming to Mass even though they have young children. These people have missed the point because out of pride they have stopped coming to Mass and therefore deprive their children of God's gift given in community. Pride is such a hurtful thing among adults when it descends upon their children and deprives their children of the spiritual nourishment they need.

There is hardly a family that is not affected by dear ones who have abandoned the Sacraments of the Church. While God will not abandon them they are depriving themselves and often their children of God's special favor. Please! Never deprive children of God's gift to them.

Celebration Honoring Ms. Beth Frank, Our Principal

Following the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass this week there is a reception in Gaudete Hall thanking Beth Frank for her seven years of service to our school. During her time, she has taken the school from the verge of closing to a school that is considered the strongest academically in our area and a growing enrollment. All of us must be very thankful to God and to Beth Frank because this school, the oldest in the region by far, is alive and well. We are a Rural Oasis of Superior Education Blended with Faith. Join a moment of celebration for Beth Frank. A reception is in Gaudete Hall immediately following the 10:30 AM Liturgy.

Beautification and Improvements Continue

AJ Ickes continues to beautify the water feature area of the Grotto and the front of the Church. She plants, waters, and mothers these beautiful flowers.

A whole score of women are doing the same in front of the school, along the east side of the Grotto, and in front of the rectory. I deeply appreciate what they do in beautifying our area. All of them depend upon the gracious rain that the Lord sends from heaven. Thank you to all of our flower people.

The scaffolding in the church is coming down as I write this. You will now be able to look up at the columns and not see flaking paint but rather a fresh look. We are blessed with so many skillful workers in our vineyard.