

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 19, 2018

## Dear Families and Parishioners,

The essence of Sacrament lies in the special bonding of God to those who participate. The Sacraments assist us to grow in our spiritual life even as bread becomes a necessity for growth in physical life. Jesus makes this clear when he refers to himself as ‘The Bread of Life’. Perhaps the majority of people in the world would not subsist without bread as food. The bread for our spiritual life is God himself. Without God we would not subsist at all and without the Bread of Life our growth is stunted.

The Assumption Triduum was a Feast of Sacraments. Many families exercised the Sacrament of Matrimony by coming together with children and often with grandparents. On Monday more than 157 people approached the Lord for his merciful and forgiving hands. On Tuesday, the sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick** brought 121 into the church for anointing with Holy Oil. The Lord cures us not only physically but perhaps even more with peace of heart and mind for those troubled of spirit. The parish also reflected on the coming **Sacrament of Confirmation** for young people. Finally, the celebrant invoked the Holy Spirit upon the bread and wine that they might be transformed to the living physical resurrected presence of Jesus.

One who participates regularly in the Sacraments and engages them in their life will grow in the image and likeness of God. Those who walk away from the sacraments walk away from opportunities that can help them mature in this life and then gain the Kingdom of Heaven.

I thank all those who took part in the Assumption Triduum because each one in attendance gave strength to others by their expression of faith. The attendance Wednesday night was 424.

### **Gift from the Henty and Laura Huth Charitable Foundation**

Dick Huth, the head of the Huth Foundation, presented St. Joseph School a gift of \$11,000. This gift as it has in past years is used to assist young girls and young boys to rise out of especially difficult circumstances and receive a high quality education. The Foundation has been supporting St. Joseph School for over a decade. We deeply appreciate this assistance for students whose backgrounds are exceptionally challenging.

### **Portage County Fair**

The Portage county Fair offers us another opportunity to enjoy our neighbors, relax in the sun and enjoy the agricultural and rural area in which we live. Senior citizens can enjoy on Friday this special free-of-charge day.

### **School Improvements**

During the summer, Mark Simonetti and his assistant, Harold have engineered some major changes in the school. They have been assisted by Ken Wohlwend and Joe Martell in construction and electrical wiring. The teacher’s lounge is now bright and attractive and the principal’s office is repainted. New blinds are installed in the school windows on the south side of the building for aesthetics and light control. We are expecting shortly that the chain carved wood image of St. Joseph will appear at the entrance of St. Joseph Way.

It is also most heartening to announce that the enrollment for the school will be up approximately 18% according to our pre-registration. We feel this is due to the very personal approach of our school but also with our overall framework of superior education blended with Faith.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
August 19, 2018