

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 26, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

Today's Gospel concerns the Gift of Faith. The sixth chapter of John is Jesus teaching about the Eucharist. He had previously fed the people with five loaves and two fishes. He had done many miracles that in his day were called signs. Yet, at the end of the teaching, many of his disciples and many who had seen his signs walked away. Jesus then turns to his twelve and asks them if they also want to walk away and leave. Simon Peter answers for them: "Teacher, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

My experience reflects this passage. When people walk away from the Sacraments, their growth in the life of the Spirit diminishes. If one stops eating food, the body weakens. When one stops receiving the Eucharist, the Spirit weakens. We need to exercise our faith by taking in the physical living resurrected presence of Jesus, the Eucharist. "Do you also want to walk away?"

Call for Leaders of Prayer

The Youngstown Diocese is putting together a series of instructions on leading prayers in the Church. In the bulletin for this week, you will see the announcement concerning this opportunity. One of our parishioners is already registered for this training. If there are others, please contact me if you are interested. There are no prerequisites for this series. See me immediately if you are interested since there is a deadline of September 1st for application.

Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith Begins Again

The directed reading course, Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith, will begin again on Saturday, September 22nd at 10:30 AM in the rectory. This course is fitted for those who are interested in learning about the Catholic Faith, possibly becoming Catholic, or seeking more information about the Catholic Faith. Over a period of four sessions you will peruse and be guided by the book by Michael Pennock. This is not a reading book, but a guiding textbook to understand God's working in you today. Jesus is the ultimate teacher that the Apostles came to know.

If you are interested in taking this course that has four sessions, please call Sandy in the rectory or talk to Fr. Tom. This is patterned after a college directed reading courses in universities. The dates for the session are September 22nd, October 13th, October 27th, and November 10th.

Youth Special Event

James and Felicia Davies, two of our most creative young people, have put together a youth event on Sunday, September 23rd from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. This is open to our youth in 8th grade thru high school. This will be especially fitted to those who are seeking Confirmation. The event will take place at Randolph Tool where you will participate in water cutting of steel to make charms and keepsakes. You will experience the inside of a factory, have some food, and end up with a keepsake which might reflect the Holy Spirit.

It is up to the parents to get you to the location by 2:00 PM and pick you up at 5:00 PM. You will need to sign up for this experience. If I were you, I would go because James and Felicia are two exciting people with exciting ideas. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
August 26, 2018