

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 5, 2018

## **Dear Parishioners and Families,**

Last week we heard how Jesus fed a crowd of thousands with five barley loaves and two fishes. This event reminded the people of Moses who fed the people in the desert with manna from Heaven. Jesus miraculous feeding is followed by a long teaching session when Jesus returned to Capernaum.

Over the next four Sundays we share this teaching discourse in which Jesus is leading the people to understand the approaching Last Supper where simple bread and wine become himself. Jesus himself becomes the manna from Heaven, foreseen in the five barley loaves and two fish. The Eucharist is our fundamental act of faith; looking at the seemingly inert Host we recognize the actual presence of the Lord.

### **Update on the Bishop**

Monsignor Siffrin writes: “Bishop Murry is progressing well and appreciates your prayers and support. He receives a third round of chemotherapy in August. Since he is responding well, he is considering returning to the office on a part-time basis either in late August or early September.

### **Festival VIP Tables**

People have asked whether the VIP Tables at the festival were profitable. There were ten subscriptions for VIP tables that totaled \$10,000. The expenses were \$3,726. The final profit for the VIP tables was \$6,274. I thank our V.I.P. persons for the donation and support of the festival and for the festival leaders for implementing this idea.

### **Confirmation and Confirmandi**

There were thirty-three names of potential candidates among our teenagers for Confirmation. Parents or guardians representing twenty of these showed up at the July meetings. We shall continue to work positively with the parents and students of those twenty toward Confirmation. Clearly, the advent of the Holy Spirit will bring graces not only to the Confirmandi but to the parents and guardians.

### **Meeting of Finance Committee**

The Finance committee met on July 26<sup>th</sup> and reviewed positively the finances for the entire year. A copy of the Receipts and Disbursements are printed in the bulletin. Line number 47 shows that the total Operating Receipts exceeded the Operating Disbursements by over \$100,000. Line 71 shows that the parish spent \$262,000 in non-operating deferred maintenance improvements. These included such items as stabilization of the west wall of the church, the painting of the columns, the new front drive to the school, the significant improvements in the Grotto, etcetera.

We have enclosed for nostalgia the Financial Report from 1948 which is all presented into one half page. This takes you back seventy years and includes such things as pew rent and chicken dinners.

The Finance Committee noted that the exterior of the office/rectory is showing serious signs of disrepair. The parish received a proposal to reface this 1887 building with cement board plus new windows on the second floor at the total cost of about \$95,000. This is deferred maintenance of many years and through the generosity of the parish, the good fundraisers, and the positive stock market, we will be able to address this issue shortly.

Projects underway currently include final plumbing renewal on the third floor of the rectory, new water fountains in the school, new flooring/electrical work/painting in the teacher’s lounge and in the principal’s office. The water fountains are a gift from the Home and School Committee. The Finance Committee also noted with approval that this year we are giving faculty and staff a 2% Cost of Living Raise plus an additional 1%. In my six years at St. Joseph, we have given a raise to the teachers every single year.

**Meeting of Parish Council**

The Parish Council met Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. They looked at the schematic drawing of a Family/School Center. This was done by Tom Mayer. The purpose of these drawing is primarily a visual for major donors. The cost of such a structure based on square footage is approximately \$4,000,000. It would be a Multi-Purpose Center with additional classrooms, a gymnasium, a music room, and other facilities. It is projected as attached to the north side of the school with an attractive arcade separating the new building from the school building. Fr. Tom Dyer has noted to me personally that such a building has been under consideration for twenty-five years or more.

The group also discussed the Youth Program and its proposal to have families or small groups develop a series of events for the teenagers. A copy of the proposal is within this bulletin. Parish Council felt it was certainly worth an experimental try. The Parish Council noted the positive response of twenty sets of parents with children who are to be confirmed. This could also form a cadre of youth especially for developing other events for teen agers. The new principal is developing thoughts on how to incorporate the upper grades of the school in to their own grouping distinct from the high school students.

The Coming Assumption Triduum is an important spiritual event for the parish. The Confirmandi and their parents are especially invited to attend Monday evening of the Triduum with its Communal Confession.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
August 5, 2018

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