

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – FEBRUARY 3, 2019

## **Dear Families and Parishioners,**

We have entered probably the most challenging month of the year, February. The weather often puts us on ice and snow. This Saturday and Sunday we will be blessing throats after Masses. Remember that the meaning of blessing is primarily asking the Lord to favor us and prosper our life.

### **Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith**

Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in the rectory we will begin again the Directed Reading Course called *Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith*. Our last session ended with Thanksgiving and four people coming in to the Church.

This Directed Course meets four times and each session lasts an hour and a half. This reading course suits people who are thinking of becoming Catholic, those who have been away from the Catholic Church for some time and need to regroup, those non-Catholics married to a Catholic and want to learn something more about their partners beliefs, or a multitude of other reasons. I direct the course. If you are interested in becoming part of this group please call Sandy Blazewick at the rectory office so I can have the correct number of books available. There is no test at the end of the course, simply a fuller understanding of the Catholic Faith, the Bible, and the Sacraments.

### **Registration of Children for Next Year at St. Joseph School**

The registration for children at St. Joseph school next year in grades K through 8 is very positive. Our agenda as well as our vision is to present Superior Education Blended with Faith. For this reason we do not have more than twenty-four in a class. Recently the Record Courier noted that Waterloo was returning to cursive writing. We have never left it.

Ike Holzapfel also wants to note that in the upper grades there is a great deal of individualized education that addresses each student's talents and where they are at this point. Especially at 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade we are preparing the students for entering the best high schools in our area and also the best private schools out of our Diocese. If any of your children are currently bored as they enter 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, coasting but not climbing, or need a change of venue, now is the time to consider St. Joseph School. Our principal will be most happy to talk with those parents individually so their children especially in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are pressed for excellence.

### **Receiving the Precious Blood by Intinction**

Anita Workman received a letter signed by Bishop Murry, written by Father Balash rejecting at this time the use of Intinction at St. Joseph Parish. She had sent the request along with over 250 signatures of people who requested Intinction. I personally know that Father Balash is not positive toward Intinction and has refused to see Dr. Cain and myself regarding the health risk of drinking from the Cup. Bishop Murry is following the lead of Father Balash who heads up the Liturgical Commission for this Diocese.

On the other hand, I received a letter from the Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown, PA, where he suspended Holy Communion from the Chalice this flu season. Bishop Schlert takes a different position than that of the Liturgical Commission. His letter is in the bulletin this week.

During my lifetime there have been many changes in how we receive Holy Communion and these have been recounted to all of you many times. Change for the better comes slowly. I have sent letters regarding these matters to Bishop Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, who is on the Liturgical Commission for the Catholic Bishops. The letter has also be sent to Father Menke who is the Executive Director of the American Bishops Committee on Divine Worship. Learning for all of us is a slow process.