

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JANUARY 13, 2019

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JESUS

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus. The coming of the Holy Spirit was a sign from the Father that Jesus was to start his public life. It was a life-changing experience. The Father gave his approbation, “You are my Beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.”

If the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus, already a Godly man, moves Jesus, think of the potential for us when the Holy Spirit comes upon us in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus when he is praying. Our Confirmandi who are meeting today at the 10:30 am Mass are also in a time of prayer.

Jesus is portrayed as being led by the Holy Spirit. The same breathe or Spirit of God placed in us the image and likeness of God. The Holy Spirit is a silent breath. God seldom shouts at us, rather God speaks in whispers and often late in the night. May we all learn with the Confirmandi how the Holy Spirit touches us.

Registration Begins for Our Parishioners and Those Currently Enrolled

Registration for St. Joseph School for next fall begins for the children of our parish and the children who are currently enrolled. As the school begins to fill up in classes, it is important to enroll early so you are not left out. Please read the two flyers concerning registration in the bulletin today. The first registration week is reserved for children of St. Joseph Parish and current students of St. Joseph School.

St. Joseph School Students Continue to Set the Pace

Once again St. Joseph School students continued to set the pace in educational excellence. In early November, the 8th grade students at St. Joseph School took the ACT Aspire. This summative and standardized assessment measures each individual student’s level of “college and career readiness” as compared with all other students nationally. The achievement level required in order to earn the designation of “Ready” or Exceeding” is a high bar.

Of the students who took the assessment, 83% of all St. Joseph students achieved a score designation of “Ready” or Exceeding” college and career readiness. This indicates that these St. Joseph School students will be on target for freshman level college courses should they continue on the same trajectory in high school.

Last year we compared our students as they took the Iowa Test which is nation-wide. The students who took the test nation-wide placed us in the top 20% of students taking the test. We are very pleased to present these quantitative measurements of our students and our education.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
January 13, 2019