

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JANUARY 20, 2019

Dear Families and Parishioners,

The Wedding Feast of Cana described by John is a rare scene in the public life of Christ. Cana is a city about nine miles north of Nazareth. Were the bride and groom related to Joseph or Mary? Mary was invited and Jesus also together with his disciples. According to John, this takes place very early in the public life of Christ. Clearly, this was a multiple day celebration.

Despite the fact that marriage is the prime association in the human race and is the substrate for families, there are relatively few references to family in the four gospels. Family life is so hard to characterize in our vast world.

There are nuclear families, extended families, small families, large families, broken families, single parent families, and a host of other variations depending on the variance and cultures. A recent Synod on the Family found it impossible to come up with a single description of family.

Pope Francis summarized the Synod on Families in his second exhortation, *The Joy of Love*. Even as God is not solitary but rather Trinity, man is not meant to be solitary but joined together in family and community. What holds families together is love. Just as the Holy Trinity is made up of fatherhood, sonship, and the Spirit of love, so our families cohere with love.

The essence of love is a constant thoughtfulness and service to the one who is loved. Love is the antithesis of selfishness. No matter how a family is put together, love within the family is the essential component.

The Kingdom of Heaven is described as a Wedding Feast. Mary at the wedding Feast at Cana wants nothing to impinge negatively on the joy and love of this special occasion. Jesus agrees with this and accelerates the godly agenda at the request of his mother. The love of Jesus for his mother, and the love of Mary for Jesus, is simply the antecedent for the love of this couple. The Wedding Feast of Cana is a foretaste of the Kingdom of Heaven.

School Enrollment for 2019-20

I am writing this note at 2:00 PM on Thursday. As of now we have ninety applications. Today we have 162 students in the school. For ease of keeping track, there are approximately 50 students in the pre-school, 112 students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

Pre-school for next will clearly again fill up. The maximum number of pre-school students that we can teach is capped by state regulations and is fifty. The goal I would like to present for the grade school for the coming year would be 130 students. That would mean an increase of 18 students. Almost certainly kindergarten and likely first grade will be full at 24 students each.

If your child is already coming to St. Joseph in the lower grades or you are a member of the parish, you need to put the application in early before we begin open enrollment. Open enrollment will begin on January 28th as Catholic School Week begins.

Our principal, Mr. Ike Holzapfel has tailored much of the upper grades to meet individual student strengths. At grades 5, 6, 7, and 8, the student's special and natural talents are beginning to emerge more clearly. The individualized approach to the upper grades is a positive factor made possible by our smaller class size. Our grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 train a student for excellence in high school. We shall never stop growing in **Superior Education Blended with Faith**. It is time for you to try St. Joseph School.