

Praise be Jesus Christ!

At daily Mass this week, we heard from the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus says, “Amen I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” Jesus is teaching His disciples and us that simple trust and humility is needed to receive the mercy of God and enter into a saintly life in Heaven.

One of the joys of coming to St. John Paul II Parish is the vibrant parish school and faith formation program we have here. The children come to know the love of God and role of the Church in aiding them in their mission to become saints. As a parish, we (the adults) can learn from our children what childlike faith is and try to follow it. A child’s heartfelt prayer is powerful!

We are gearing up for the Vacation Bible School again this year, but with a twist. This year it will be a home-based experience with lawn visits and parish videos throughout the week. This year the program starts this Sunday (August 16th) with a materials pickup and will conclude on Friday with a drive-thru parade.

We are also busy getting ready for the academic year at Holy Cross School, our parish school for all three churches. The staff is preparing diligently for a safe return to five days a week learning in the classroom. I have learned about the many safety procedures we have in place and I am impressed. Thankfully we have a dedicated staff to carry them out! There are limited seats left in every grade from Pre-K through eighth grade. Please see the school website (www.holycrossmaine.org) for more information. Fr. Peter and I look forward to being involved in the weekly life of the school.

It is certainly true that children bring great joy into our lives, as they show us the wonders of life and joy of following Jesus! May we learn from them daily. Please keep our children in your prayers.

St. John Paul II, pray for us!

In Christ,

Fr. Jack Dickinson

A couple of notes:

An updated weekend Mass schedule went into effect last weekend. Please remember to sign up on our parish website (www.jp2me.org) or call Julie Cannon (883-0334) to attend the parish Masses. This ensures that we are able to maintain proper numbers for our Diocesan protocols.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is scheduled again:

Saturdays at 3PM at Holy Cross in the old sacristy. We ask you to enter the door that goes directly into the old sacristy between the school and the church. Please wait in your car until you see the door open.

Saturdays at 4 PM at St. Maximilian Kolbe in the daily Mass chapel. If the chapel door is open, then please proceed into the chapel. If the chapel door is closed, please wait outside by the front garden for the previous penitent to leave.

When attending Mass or coming to confession, please remember to wear a mask that covers both your mouth and your nose. This practice is a small way we care for our neighbors, our fellow parishioners.

The Medical Missionaries of Mary were scheduled to make a Mission Appeal this weekend. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 they are unable to come. Fr. Peter and I will be making the appeal for them at this weekend's Masses. Information is on the website. A basket to donate to the Medical Missionaries of Mary will be at all Masses. Thank you for your generosity.