

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – OCTOBER 4, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Family and Faith! In our era the passing on of the faith depends even more upon the family. COVID 19 has isolated us from the Church in many ways. We are restricted from coming easily to the Mass and the Sacraments because of the requirement to keep distance.

The dark weather and the cooling temperatures have ended the 7:00 PM Grotto Masses for this year. Weekend Masses will be in the church. Ten minutes before each Mass you can walk into the church, pick up a bulletin, drop off your envelope, and I will be there to give Communion at the rear of the church. There is a one page reflection that you can take with you and leave. Thus, you would only be in the church for a very short time, probably less than five minutes. That is safe.

For those who remain we will begin on time and have the ordinary Mass with Communion. This experiment to give Communion early is again one of those adaptations that COVID 19 lays upon us. We will see how this works during the month of October.

Passing on the Faith has always been a principal responsibility of parents. We became accustomed that our parish can support this by open and easy access to the Sacraments. Our Catholic school is an important help to the parents. What the parents say and do, however, is what the children receive in their inmost being and remains with them for life.

The Lord is putting more responsibility on parents for the promotion of the Faith. Elements such as praying before meals and a thanksgiving after meals, is the reminder that God is in our home. This week we celebrated the Feast of the Guardian Angels and recognize that God has assigned an angel to each of us. The ability of coming to Mass and receiving the Sacraments during the week when it is easy to keep distance remains always an open opportunity. I especially recommend the 6:00 PM Wednesday Mass.

Thank you for making the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the family of Trinity, part of your life at home. Thank you for sending your children to St. Joseph School. In October during the day hours we may yet be able to have a Grotto Mass for the children. The rural safer setting of St. Joseph Parish is truly a blessing during these challenging times.

Items Around Our Campus

Our Principal, Mr. Ike Holzapfel, applied for and received a significant grant that will add to our internet capabilities. The children of our school seem very happy to be together and are enjoying many of their classes outdoors and their recreation.

Mr. Larry Mudd and Mr. Joe Martell, (with input from Fish Fry personnel and Festival personnel) are moving adroitly toward two simple new buildings. One is a storage building behind the current maintenance garage and Larry Mudd has taken this to the County for permits. The second is a multi-use building that will have restrooms especially useful for the students, an electrical room and a cooking area with multiple opportunities. The drawings for this building that will parallel the pavilion are nearly complete.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
October 4, 2020