

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MARCH 15, 2020

## **Dear Parishioners and Parents,**

WATER. The first reading from Exodus and the Gospel reading from John focus around water. Without water physical life as we know it cannot exist. This statement is exemplified by NASA's ever-ongoing search for water in the Universe above our planet. If there is water, there is a chance of life.

The Israelites were wondering through the dessert toward the Promised Land. They needed water on their route or they would have never arrived. God had to supply the water and this is certainly a symbol that God gives us life.

In the gospel story, the Samaritan woman had a troubled life and she was almost certainly coming to the well shunned by the other women. Is this just a chance meeting then with Christ? His words were one of the themes throughout his entire life: "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." He offers this life to the woman as he raised her thoughts and her spirits upward.

## **Prelude Discussion to the Coronavirus**

On a separate page in this bulletin is an insert from the science section of the New York Times. There is important information about the virus. One interesting aspect is that the virus hits much harder the people who are advanced in age than young children.

The press would seem to make us obsessed with the Coronavirus. Be wary but also be prudent.

## **The Most Reverend Bishop Michael Botean**

The National Catholic Reporter had a front page article about Bishop Botean. I reprint parts of that because he is native to our area, Canton, OH. His jurisdiction is the entire United States and Canada. He is an Eastern Rite Bishop of the Romanian Rite.

The key element is truly a sign of leadership. As you read this shortened article, you will find that the attitude in the Vatican from somewhat somber and judicial advanced to one of joy and adventure. Today when everyone seems significantly oppressed by watching our political battles, our battle with the virus, a watcher of the Stock Market, the state of the world, some uplifting joy is in place.

## **Tickets for the Renewal of the Interior Part of the Church**

We will continue to sell tickets at \$100 apiece for the renewal of the church. This Thursday another ticket will be drawn for the winning of \$1,000. This ticket is then put back into the drawing for a chance at the \$8,000 drawing.

As you look around the church you can still see all the things that are taking place and the color beginning to emerge. We have recently put a hold on new kneelers as that will give us time to give the Stock Market time to rebound. The painting and the new lighting will be done by Holy Week. A crew is also beginning the tile in the Sanctuary, and a new rug has been ordered for the Sanctuary. Thank you for your gifts to the campaign to pay for this interior renewal.