

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MARCH 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Despite all of the depressing news, there is something very positive happening in our parish. I invite you to come in and see.

This Friday most of the scaffolding will be down and you will be able to see the very vibrant colors. Please come in, sit down and pray, and ask the Lord to calm our storms.

I find no one in the Church more resilient than Pope Francis. Consider his three Exhortations, *The Joy of the Gospel*, *The Joy of Love*, and *Rejoice and Be Glad*. I have excerpted these for your reading. When you come into church pick one or all three up, say a prayer, and take them home.

Another most positive element has been the intensive labor of our Principal, Ike Holzapfel, with all the teachers. He thrives on technology and he makes quick decisions and advancements. Principal Ike Holzapfel is exactly the right type of person for this particular era at St. Joseph School.

The Exhortations of Pope Francis need to be read in small little snippets then think about them. For example in *Rejoice and Be Glad*, the Pope says “Grace acts in history: ordinarily it takes hold of us and transforms us progressively. If we reject this historical and progressive reality, we can actually refuse and block grace as we extol it by our words.” #50

How do we discern at this particular time what is the best pathway for us? “An essential condition for progress in discernment is a growing understanding of God’s patience and time table which are never our own.” #174

Our church will be open during the day if you wish to come in and silently pray. I intend to leave the lights on so that you can see all the thoughtful work that went into revitalizing St. Joseph Parish.

May St. Joseph’s Feast Day today be truly a guardian for this parish as he has been since it’s founding in 1831.

Let me know if I can be of any personal help to you.

Cordially in Christ,

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
March 22, 2020