

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MARCH 24, 2019

## **Dear Parishioners and Families,**

The Gospel today from Luke points out the always present “unexpected in life.” Sometimes these are **natural events** touching many such as floods or earthquakes. At other times these are individual items such as the diagnosis of an illness, the tripping, falling, and breaking a bone or the aches and pains from over exercise or aging. At other times the unexpected are **human events** such as the recent tragedies in New Zealand, the crashes of planes or car accidents. We live in a very variable world. In part, a person can be measured with how adversity is handled.

Jesus goes on to speak about the fig tree that failed to produce fruit. The owner wanted to cut it down. The gardener wanted to give it special attention and the gardener gained a reprieve for that tree. The gardener is the Lord who has patience and also skill with us. The gardener may have to prune, water and fertilize, but the Lord’s desire and patience is always toward fruit. “By their fruit you shall know them.” The Lord desires that we will be a good tree. There are few fruit trees that can produce good fruit without pruning, care, and a good gardener’s help.

### **Free Estate Planning Seminar for Parishioners**

Attorney Meredith Simmons, a member of the parish of St. Joseph, is hosting a **Free Estate Planning Seminar for parishioners on March 30, 2019 from 10:00 until Noon**. Come enjoy free coffee and donuts **at the rectory** and learn what Estate Planning is and why it's important, even for young families. As a foster and adoptive mom of young children, Attorney Simmons hopes to help families protect themselves in the case of sudden loss. *Please RSVP to Meredith at 330-708-7590* so that we know how many donuts to have!

### **Special Gift From the Late Clell and Bernadette Smith**

The will of Clell and Bernadette Smith was recently opened and St. Joseph Church was noted as a recipient of a \$50,000 bequest. Gifts like these are special God-sends to the parish. Both Clell and Bernie have left this world and sojourned into God’s hands in the Kingdom of Heaven. On behalf of the entire parish I thank them for remembering us while on earth and making this gift possible when their earthly journey was completed.

As you know, St. Joseph Parish is hoping to gain the funds for the building of a **School and Family Center** joined to the north end of our current school building. A concept drawing of this building includes a large arcade used for socializing after Mass, groups convening after the Grotto Mass, and the students’ eating throughout the week.

This gift from Clell and Bernie Smith is a seminal gift for the fulfillment of this vision and dream. The dream and the gift are all part of our agenda: **St. Joseph is a Rural Oasis Of Spiritual Growth and Superior Education Blended with Our Faith.**

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
March 24, 2019