

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MARCH 3, 2019

## Dear Parishioners and Families,

The Gospels relate in several places that Jesus used fruit trees and their bearing of fruit as a teaching image. “A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. (Luke 6:43). Consider another saying: “By their fruit you shall know them”. (Matthew 7:15). Pope Francis often alludes to the importance of results (good fruit) in his exhortations where he puts more emphasis on the fruit and much less on the planting techniques that are used. “God gives the increase”. (1 Corinthians 3:6).

### Registering at St. Joseph Church

Registering at a church is important. The number of active Catholics registered is one measure of parish growth. There are many other reasons however, that make registration in a church positive for both the person registering and the church. Let me note some of these for St. Joseph Parish at this particular time.

1. In June and July we are putting together a new directory with pictures of individual families for the church. Unless you are registered, we do not know how to even contact you to be part of the directory.
2. The Diocese judges us on whether we are growing or decreasing by the number of people registered. That determines in part, the time and service we can give sacramentally.
3. Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage must be recorded in the Sacramental Records of a church. Without registration, we cannot place these records.
4. Active parishioners receive major reduction in tuition, lots for burials, and even the use of our facilities.
5. The Parish needs to know how to find you and your relatives when there is an emergency.
6. Registered parishioners receive the Diocesan Newspaper, *The Catholic Exponent*, at no charge. The parish pays for the subscription.

These are just a few reasons why it is important to register. If there are no envelopes in the back of church with your name, it suggests that you are not registered or it has been some time since we heard from you. There are registration forms on the back table in the church if through some error on our part or your part we do not know you. However, **on-line givers are already registered.**

As children grow, move out of the family home, or take full-time employment, they should register themselves as an independent person. Let me emphasize that all persons are welcome to the church whether you are registered or not. However, registration helps not only us but also you.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
March 3, 2019