

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MARCH 31, 2019

## **Dear Parishioners and Families,**

Today we have the reading from the Book of Joshua. Upon the death of Moses on the edge of the Promised Land, Joshua becomes the leader. The Israelites cross into the Promised Land across the Jordan into the Plains of Jericho. The name of Jesus is a derivation from the name of Joshua. The mana from Heaven ceases because they have food from the produce of the Promised Land. The Promised Land is one “flowing with milk and honey.” The symbolisms are so clear. Joshua and Jesus; the Promised Land and the Kingdom of Heaven; Mana from Heaven and the Eucharist; land flowing with milk and honey and Jesus himself as food.

The gospel reading of the Prodigal Son and the forgiving father never grows old with us. Most of us recognize the Prodigal Son or daughter in each one of us. Hopefully we also experienced the forgiving father and the forgiving mother in our natural lives. God transcends natural forgiveness with Divine Mercy. The Father gently reminds the older son to forgive his brother. Most families experience woundings and hurts. Does this scene have some practical application for each one of us personally?

## **Pastoral Planning Process for Youngstown Diocese**

The Catholic Exponent this week presented the Bishop’s letter concerning the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese. The Deanery met Thursday regarding this Pastoral Plan. The Deanery must send a report to the Diocese by Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Following Easter, each pastor/administrator will meet with their Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council to review the basic outline of the proposed regional plan. Pastors/administrators will send a report of the parish level discussion to the Office of Evangelization and Pastoral Planning by Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

St. Joseph Parish pays for families to receive the Catholic Exponent. Most of you have received this in the mail unless you have opted out of receiving the Exponent. However, if you are not receiving the Catholic Exponent and wish to receive it, please add your name and address to the paper on the table at the back of church.

## **Welcome to Other Parishes**

The above announcement should make it clear that parishes are encouraged to work more and more together. Tuesday I went to St. Patrick Parish in Kent along with other priests for a Communal Confession. However, St. Joseph Parish has a Communal Confession Service on Tuesday night of Holy Week and I have sent this notice to Holy Spirit, Uniontown and to several of the parishes in Portage County. Fr. Lang and Fr. Pfeiffer will be with me for that Communal Confession Service.

Each week we have people coming from St. Peter of the Fields parish and from other parishes within the Cleveland Diocese and our own Diocese. This is going to happen more and more as there are fewer Masses and people search with their cars for what best fits them. On our part, we must make an effort to positively identify our visitors and members of other parishes and welcome them fully.

I especially ask our greeters and also those handing out the bulletins to note an unfamiliar face or a visitor from another parish and be especially cordial. We also want to encourage students to come to St. Joseph School because of our gracious environment and Superior Education blended with Faith.

I remind parents that the EdChoice Program Application closes at the end of April. St. Joseph has over 34 students receiving EdChoice Grants. We thank the State for supporting families especially with lower incomes.