

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MAY 5, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Families,

The forty days from the Resurrection of Jesus to his Ascension into Heaven appear not to be a continuous presence with the Apostles and Disciples. Rather, Jesus appears in scenes of reassurances then recedes into the world of the Spirit only to appear again. These forty days are transition time. Jesus physical presence will move generally to a presence of mystery and faith.

We, the believers in the Gospel, live in this time of faith and mystery where God remains with us but not in a physical way that can be seen with our eyes. First Communion Sunday clearly expresses our Faith that Jesus remains with us physically but mysteriously and mystically. This is not just a ceremony but a Sacrament.

There is a relationship to Mother's Day and the Eucharistic Sacrament received in First Communion. Mother's Day is meant to be a result of marriage. When a man and woman pronounce their vows for the first time, there appears to be nothing physically different with the couple but there is a covenant agreement that binds them together even when they are apart. In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Jesus binds himself to the child for the first time in a physical but not visible way, a marriage-like covenant.

The marriage covenant which often develops into motherhood comes from a repeated intimacy between the husband and the wife. Holy Communion for a child is meant to be a covenant relationship with repeated intimacy with the Lord. If intimacy in a marriage falls apart, often the marriage falls apart. If the intimacy in Holy Communion is not practiced, the bonding with the child slowly falls apart and lessens.

Remember, the child cannot have Holy Communion unless the parents themselves bring the child to the Eucharistic service. The parents control the intimacy of Jesus in the Eucharist with the child.

Mothers and fathers wish the best for their children. May the marriage-like covenant of Jesus with the child be fostered by the parents. Indeed, the Lord hopes that this need of the child for heavenly food will also prompt the parents to partake of God's desired covenant with the couple in marriage and to the Eucharist.

Quarterly Finance Committee Review and Weekend Collections

Both the Finance Committee and the Parish Council met to review the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese. This report is a separate page in the bulletin this week. At the same time, the Finance Committee was given the quarterly report from January 2019 through March.

Attached you will find another report comparing the first third of 2018 to the first third of 2019. It shows the following. The total collections excluding Easter which involves envelopes, on-line giving and cash, decreased by \$14,275 or approximately 12%. The number of envelopes and on-line giving received dropped by 185 or about 10%.

The Easter Giving this year was up by \$428.