

October 27, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of St. Joseph Church,

As I write this letter I hope you are enjoying the fall weather. In this time of year with the daylight and warmth decreasing, it is appropriate to reflect on our own mortality and the return of Christ in triumph. As the holidays draw nearer we may recall happy events or be saddened by the absence of loved ones. One of the ways we can ponder the ultimate meaning of our life is to prayerfully recall our deceased loved ones. We will commemorate our deceased loved ones using the Book of the Dead at the weekend Liturgies. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones in the Book of the Dead (enter each name only once) that may be found on the credence table near the main entrance to the church. The Book of the Dead will be brought forward with the gifts at the weekend Liturgies during the month of November.

HONORING OUR PAST/EMBRACING OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Our Capital Campaign is concluding. We have accomplished a great deal and we still have much to do to meet our needs and be a vibrant parish for years to come. As of October 7, we have received pledges of \$584,080.95. We have collected \$521,629.85. 300 pledges have been paid in full. 107 pledges still have open balances. (Yours truly is included in the latter figure!)

The parking lot has been resealed and painted. The church has been painted and carpeted. We will replace the sign at the entrance to our parking lot with an electronic message board. We are also looking to renovate the “Bingo” room into a beverage area for our social activities. The Rectory roof is nearing the end of its life span and must be replaced in order to eliminate future problems. There are a few other items to be addressed but overall we have been very successful in improving our facilities.

Here are some of the activities worth highlighting occurring in November.

- Monday, October 31, we will celebrate Mass at 7:00 pm in anticipation of All Saints Day, which a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass on November 1 is at 9:00 am.
- The Parish Council will meet on Monday, October 31, following the 7:00 pm Mass.
- Wednesday, November 9, there will be a Mass of Anointing at St. James Church in North Jackson at 4:30 pm. Following the liturgy will be a soup and sandwich supper.
- Sunday, Nov 13, we will enjoy the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The appetizers will begin at 4:30 pm in the Social Hall.
- Sr. Barbara O'Donnell, HM, will be speaking at the weekend Masses on November 19-20 for the annual Appeal for Retired Religious.
- Sunday, November 20, the Growing Families program will begin in the church at 9:30 am. Please come and join us.
- Tuesday, Nov 22, we will begin the Advent Sunday Scripture Study at 6:30 pm in Lyons Hall. Each week we will examine the Readings for the upcoming Sunday. This gathering is open to all. I especially encourage the Sunday Readers to attend.
- Thursday, Nov. 24, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! Mass will be at 9:00 am.
- November 26-27, the first weekend of Advent, the Knights of Columbus will have the Nativity Display in the Social Hall.
- Wednesday, November 30, the Advent Mini-Retreat will be held at 9:30 am and repeated at 6:30 pm.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Gregory F. Fedor/Pastor