

January 26, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. Joseph Church,

May God bless you warmly as we face the months ahead. I know the month of February will be full of activities. Please consult the calendar to keep track of all that we have planned.

The first weekend of February, The Celebrate Team and the Ladies Guild will have a Bake Sale after the Masses. Saturday, February 3, I will be installed as Canonical Pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church during the 5:00 pm Mass.

Beginning on Tuesday, February 6, Tom Sauline will lead a Bible Study program in the Blue Room following the 9:00 am Mass. Continuing Education Credit is available to those who participate in this program as well as those who take part in the Sunday Scripture Study during Lent.

February 14 is a special day for Catholics. It is the Solemnity of Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop. This year it also happens to be Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate these very important Saints on Sunday, February 11. We will have a Polka Mass at 11:00 am followed by a pot-luck dinner featuring Polish, Slavic and Hungarian dishes! Please come and join in the celebration and the "Hunky" Dinner!

Ash Wednesday, February 14, marks the beginning of Lent. I will celebrate Mass at 9:00 am at IHM. Here at St. Joseph, we will have a Liturgy of the Word with the Distribution of Ashes (no Communion) at 9:00 am and at Noon. I will celebrate Mass at 6:00 pm here at St. Joseph. Lent is the time of preparation for those who will be baptized, confirmed and admitted to the Eucharist during the Easter Vigil on March 31. For those of us who are already fully initiated, Lent is a time for us to renew our prayer, fasting, and charitable actions as a way of modeling our Christian faith. Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 7:00 pm.

To help prepare for the 50-day celebration of Easter we will be studying the Lenten Sunday Readings. The classes are scheduled from 6:30-8:00 pm on Tuesdays, beginning February 13. I encourage those who will be proclaiming the Readings at the weekend Masses to participate. This is an excellent way to observe the season of preparation for celebrating the Easter Sacraments. Easter Sunday is April 1.

St. Joseph Church will join with other parishes from the Diocese of Youngstown to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Columba Cathedral on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates and their families. On Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Growing Families Program beginning at 9:30 am in Church. All are welcome to attend.

Praying that God continues to bless each of you, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,