

## **September 2, 2018: The Gift of our School; and Responses to Scandal in the Church**

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday I addressed the priest abuse scandal in our Church that has come up again with Cardinal McCarrick and the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report. I encourage you to go to the home page of our website and read the statements by our Archbishop Sartain, a statement by Bishop Morlino and the USCCB. I also encourage you to take a look at what Bishop Robert Barron says on the sexual abuse crisis. I found this video to be very hopeful and insightful.

Back to school is upon us. Last Sunday as I was standing in the sacristy getting ready to start Mass, I asked the servers whether they were ready for school to start. One of the servers, who goes to our school, responded with a very enthusiastic, "I am very excited for school to start!" Having spent so many years in education myself, I understand what students and teachers alike feel as a new school year gets underway. There is an excitement in the air.

We are so blessed to have a school connected to our parish that has been providing Catholic education to the Edmonds community for 53 years. This is a service and ministry we are committed to because we feel Catholic education is important for our culture and the future of our Church. Our goal as a Catholic school, along with offering an excellent and holistic education, is to always enhance our Catholic culture and identity. This means we want each child to know and understand who Jesus is and how we respond to Him with virtuous and upright lives.

This school year we will be beginning to have the school attend weekly liturgies of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the heart of our worship as Catholics and the place we most encounter our Lord in His Word and Body. It is important for our school community to gather weekly around the table of Lord. This weekly Eucharist will be on Fridays at 8:30am; this will also be the parish daily Mass for that day.

This past year a Catholic School Identity Committee has come together and has been working on several initiatives. A few that have come forth are access to monthly confession, monthly benediction, and a Saint of the week. We will also continue the school's annual Lady of Guadalupe procession and the May Crowning. Another initiative is the virtue project, where we focus on a virtue of the month. These virtues include: Humility, Patience, Generosity, Hope, Kindness, Purity, Persistence, Charity, Self-Control, and Faith.

And finally a great gift we have been given as a school and parish is our name – Holy Rosary. We will continue to promote the Rosary as a way to come to know, love and serve Christ. The twenty mysteries of the Rosary are a summary or compendium of the Gospels. Through learning and praying the mysteries of the Rosary we come into contact with the mystery of Christ. The beautiful thing about the Rosary is that Mary prays with us. The Rosary is a great way to pray together as a family, in the car or at home.

France this year has banned smart phones from all its schools in an effort to see that the children have more concrete experiences with nature, others, crafts and the arts. We might add to this list that one of our goals as a Catholic school is that each child have a concrete experience of God in the person of Jesus Christ our Savior.

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent