

October 2018

Dear Parents,

When school began in August, Mike and Carrie O'Brien, whose children attend Blessed Sacrament School, sent a letter to each family in the school inviting them to attend Mass with their family every Sunday for a month. At the end of that time, they challenged you to evaluate and see if taking the time for Mass had made a positive difference in your life and the life of your family. I know that a few families accepted the challenge. My hope and prayer is that they will find the difference worshipping together can make and that all our families will come to make it a weekly priority.

There is no question that many households no longer consider Sunday Mass a necessary thing. Life in our modern world is busy and trying to crowd everything in is difficult. Some cannot see the value of something that appears to be abstract. Yet, going to Mass, worshipping and praying together as a family, acknowledges that we are more than just physical matter with physical needs. There is a spiritual dimension as well and it is this dimension that makes us unique. Just as it is important to teach our children how to care for the physical, mental, social, and emotional needs of life, it is also important not to ignore the spiritual needs. Building a relationship or friendship with God begins by spending time with God. Reading, praying, and worshipping are important in developing the spiritual life of your children and your family. God will give faith, but every parent has a role and responsibility in nurturing it. Faith is not faith if it is not connected to the way we live our lives. Teaching and encouraging our children to make that connection is a responsibility that is best done in the family.

For me, gathering each week to worship is like going home every Sunday for dinner. When someone in the family is missing, everyone misses them. You are important to our parish and we truly want you and your family here.

If you accepted Mike and Carrie O'Brien's challenge, I commend you and hope you are finding it is a truly good thing for your family. If you have not yet done so, I ask you to start this weekend. Try it for a month and see what difference it makes. You have the opportunity and power to make a difference in the life of your children. I know you would not ignore giving your children the best you can when it comes to the physical, educational or social aspects of life. Please do not ignore the spiritual needs. I cannot tell you how important this is for their happiness and yours as well.

My mother had a saying that the family that prays together, stays together. Accept the challenge. Make time for Mass every Sunday this month. I'm betting it will make a difference.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff