

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
3 PM

AS THE SCHOOL YEAR APPROACHES...

Even if you do not have children, the start of the school year affects almost everyone in some way or another – stores and businesses sometimes change hours, and we no longer breeze through school zones. (Well, at least in theory!) Since it coincides with early fall, we find that by Labor Day, we are usually no longer in full summer mode.

This shift in life, whether great or small, gives us the opportunity to look at our lives and ask what needs to change. Maybe it's our prayer life. Do I pray each day or only when I need something? Do I stop to listen to the Lord or am I all talk and no listen? Do I listen to God through reading the Bible, spiritual books or tapes, or participating in formation programs at church? (Check the kiosk outside the side entrance of church. There are great CDs and books available. If you can't afford it, just take it and return when you're finished.) Do I participate in Sunday Mass regularly? Do we pray as a family, at least at meal times? Do we ever discuss our faith? (There is a family discussion question in the bulletin each week.) Do I/we do anything to reach out to others?

This "new year" can provide our family with the opportunity to realign our schedules. What are things that take precedence over family time or time to do good for others – electronics, sports, work or hobbies, for example? Do we need to reprioritize our time according to what is most important in the long run of life, versus what is the big thing at this moment.

You may be thinking that it is clear that this

writer is celibate. You are right about that, but wrong that you cannot make changes in the family.

Like many changes, it may take us a while to get into the swing of it. There can be whining and crying, (I mean even from yourself) but if you plan well and stick with the change, it becomes part of life, and you are all the richer for it.

Some hints on how to make the change work for you or your family.

- ☞ **Make the change doable.** For example, if you are not praying at all, don't try to pray an hour a day. Commit yourself to five or ten minutes to start. If you need your family to spend more time together, you might start with one meal or evening a week when everyone is together. Make it a special time with no excuses and no electronic devices. Look at YOUR family. What can work and what won't? If it appears nothing will work, keep thinking and talking.
- ☞ **Plan on what you will do in and during that time.** If it is prayer, you might choose to pray for others and yourself or read Scripture, or just sit in silence, giving that time to the Lord. If it is family time together, what will you do?
- ☞ **If your plan involves others, get input from them.** Remember, you are the parent, so when your kids tell you they want to do nothing, you have the power to say, "Well then, this is what I think we can do."

God bless and good change! – Fr. Jeff

NOTE FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Because of the need of the church for school orientation, **THERE WILL BE NO 7 PM MASS ON AUGUST 14th** for the feast of the ASSUMPTION. Masses will be at 7 AM, NOON, & 7 PM on Tuesday August 15th.