



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent and our Parish Mission. We welcome Fr. Frank DeSiano to St. Mary's for our Lenten Parish Mission. Fr. Frank will be guiding us in reflecting more deeply this Lent on the importance and the significance of the Eucharist in the Church, in our parish, and in our lives. Please bring a co-worker, neighbor, family member, and friend to one or all of the presentations by Fr. DeSiano.

In addition to leading us in prayer at the weekend Masses, Fr. Frank will lead us in a three-night Parish Mission, Sunday, March 10 – Tuesday, March 12. Each evening session begins at 7:00pm. I pray that you will join guests, neighbors, friends, and parishioners at the Parish Mission. The Mission is offered to all this Lent, so that we will continue to let God speak to us, feed and nourish us, and send us forth to be his healing presence in society.

Fr. Timothy Radcliffe is a Dominican priest and author. In his book, *Why go to Church? The Drama of the Eucharist*, he writes, **“Through faith, hope and love we experience ways in which God makes his home in each and every one of us.”** We profess that we, each and every one of us, are made in the image and likeness of God. For me the quote from Fr. Radcliffe has a warm and intimate tone to it, ‘God making his home in each and every one of us.’”

Through Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we allow God's grace to work anew in our lives. With God's grace working anew, we turn away from what distracts, lures, and distances ourselves from God. With God's grace we live virtuous lives, as believers, as followers of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

As we continue our Lenten journey, attending the Parish Mission, praying, and reading the Bible, may the following quotes and biblical insights encourage and help you in your Lenten prayer:

PROVERBS 3:5-6 — God doesn't tell us to understand, he tells us to trust him.

ISAIAH 55:8-9 — God's timing is better than your timing.

JEREMIAH 29:11 — God knows what's best for you. Trust the plan.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 — If you're worried about it, that's a sign that you need to pray about it.

HEBREWS 13:5 — Even if other people leave you, God will never abandon you.

Saturday, March 9 is the School of St. Mary Gala. Even if you do not have a ticket to the Gala you can participate in the Silent Auction of our School of St. Mary, “Disco the Night Away Gala” by using the following link: app.galabid.com/sosm24/items. The Silent Auction will be “live” until Sunday, March 10 at 5:00pm. Perhaps you will be the top bidder, winning a wonderful item while supporting the School at the same time.

We are very grateful to the many benefactors of the School of St. Mary. If you would like to make a donation to the School of St. Mary Crusader Fund, please use this link:

givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/248/event/31484

or you can always write a check, or donate stock. The Parent's Association holds a variety of fund raisers throughout the year. The Gala is the largest fund raiser for the School. Each and every gift received is very much appreciated. Thank you for your support of Catholic education at the Church of St. Mary.

Are you traveling during Holy Week and Easter – plan ahead and find out what church is near where you are traveling so you can pray your way through Lent and into the glorious season of Easter.

May God bless us with clean hearts and “Eucharistic hearts” these Lenten days,