



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Happy Easter, people of St. Mary's – Happy Easter!!!!!!

It was Easter Sunday afternoon, the church was quiet, the Easter crowds had left and were sharing Easter joy with loved ones. I was in the process of locking the church after the joyous and hope-filled celebrations of our Savior's resurrection.

Walking through the church, I saw melted wax from the Easter Vigil on several pews. I was grateful for the powerful celebration that took place on Holy Saturday as we welcomed people into the faith.

Walking through the church, I saw goldfish on the floor, remnants left behind by children attending Easter Mass. I was grateful that many families, with young children, came to share in the Eucharist with their family and friends on Easter Sunday.

Walking through the church, I saw many, many worship aids that people used to sing, "Jesus Christ is Risen today!" I was grateful that believers came to share that Jesus has been raised and we are all called to live in new life.

Walking through the church, I found many empty boxes that had held hundreds of bottles of Easter water. I was grateful for those whose generous donation allowed the faithful to take Easter Holy water to their homes as well as to give to family members.

Walking through the church, on Easter afternoon, tired and exhausted, turning out the lights, extinguishing the Easter Candle, locking the doors, I was grateful for many graces and blessings shared by people of faith who came together, came to church, to share the joy that we find in our Lord and Savior, who has truly risen.

I pray that all of us will be grateful, in living and in sharing Easter joy throughout this Easter season at our parish, and in the world, to all who need Easter joy and the promise of new life in Christ.

You may remember that it was nine years ago Pope Francis issued "Laudato Si' ", "Care for our Common Home". You are invited to join with others to discern and dialogue in our Church's calling to care for our common home. Join others on this journey on Sunday, April 7 from 1:00 - 4:30pm at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 724 Elder Lane, in Deerfield. The meeting on April 7 is the first of a series of meetings, conversations, and prayer services being held in the Archdiocese in April and May. The final event is a Mass at St. Mary's on Pentecost Sunday, May 19 at 12:00 Noon. Bishop Jeffrey Grob will be the main celebrant of the Mass. For more information, Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) Synodal Journey: Evangelize Encounters with Christ in All Creation visit bit.ly/49eJVxi to learn more and register for the April 7 meeting.

Do you know that your parish was founded in 1875? Nearing the end of the nineteenth century, thirty families approached Bishop Foley of Chicago, asking if they could open a Catholic Church in east Lake Forest. Bishop Foley listened to their request and St. Mary's was founded in 1875. We are now in our 149th year of following Jesus, being shaped by God's Word, nourished in the sacraments, and parishioners continue to live and share their faith to this very day. One hundred fifty years is a significant milestone for St. Mary's. Do you want to be part of a team of parishioners planning how we can give thanks to God for His grace present and active in our parish? You are invited to mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 10 for a planning meeting at 7:00pm in the Upper Grade Center Multi-Purpose room. Please enter through the Green Bay Road school entrance. Come together and join other parishioners in sharing ideas of how we can give thanks to God as St. Mary's celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2025.

Families are reminded to register for St. Mary's / St. Patrick's Faith Adventure Week by Monday, April 8. The Faith Adventure Week is for children in kindergarten – 5th grade. The camp will be held, July 22 – July 26. For more information please reach out to Joy Pacheco, Chase Hawkins, or Fr. Radley.

Pope Francis shared the following Easter greeting and blessing:

Happy Easter!

We Christians are all called to communicate this message of resurrection
To those we meet, especially to those who suffer, to those who are alone,
To those who find themselves in precarious conditions, to the sick,
To refugees, to the marginalized.

Let us make a ray of the light of the Risen Christ, a sign of his powerful mercy,
To reach everyone. AMEN.

May God bless us with prayerful, compassionate, and joyous hearts this Easter season,