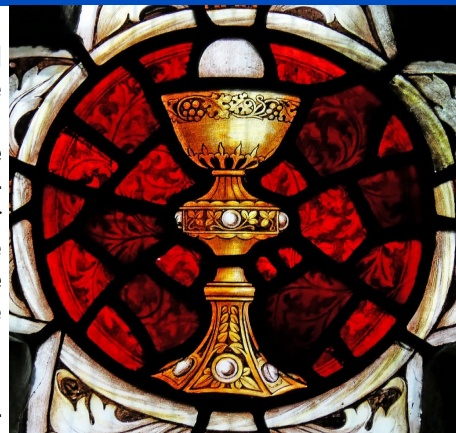




## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Last week at the School of St. Mary (SOSM) the final touches were completed on maintenance projects for the opening of the new school year. Mrs. Kathy Thompson, school principal, welcomed faculty and staff back to the SOSM. Last week was filled with teacher's in-service, returning faculty renewing their friendships with other teacher while at the same time welcoming the new faculty into the school community. As the doors for the new year are ready to be opened, the only thing remaining is for the students to be brought to the Primary Grade Center (PGC) and the Upper Grade Center (UGC) this coming week.



We open the doors of the School of St. Mary this coming Tuesday, August 22nd. We are anticipating opening the school year with 430 students combined at both school campuses. Mrs. Thompson, building on the theme of "Respect" last year has chosen the theme of "Courage" for this year. Woven into Masses, classroom activities and prayer services we will bring to life the passage from 1 Chronicles 28:20. Thanks to all parishioners and benefactors of the School of St. Mary.

If you were praying at St. Mary's last weekend you were able to receive the Precious Blood. The ministers of the Precious Blood will be stationed near the side aisles in the front of the altar. If you are planning on receiving the Precious Blood you are encouraged to sit in the main body of the church. If at any time you are feeling ill or sick, you are asked to refrain from receiving the Precious Blood from the common cup.

As a reminder, you are to receive the host upon having it offered to you. It is not proper to carry the host with you back to the pew. After you respond AMEN, take one step to the side, place the Eucharist in your mouth, and continue to your pew for the prayer of thanksgiving. The Staff and mandated EMHC are glad that we are able to return to the practice of offering the Precious Blood at Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday at St. Mary's. We will be able to resume this practice as long as mandated EMHC are able to attend the Masses and minister to the faithful.

Beginning on Sunday, September 10th through Pentecost Sunday in May we will be offering an evening Mass on Sunday's. Due to the dates of holidays, there will be some occasions when a Sunday Mass is not offered during the next nine months. We will communicate any changes in the Mass schedule through the bulletin and social media. You are always encouraged to check the website of our parish or any parish you visit when traveling to see any updates or changes in the Mass schedule.

Using John 6:51, "my flesh for the life of the world", the United States Catholic Bishops are leading the American Church towards the Eucharistic Renewal in Indianapolis in July 2024. Their Mission is "to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. " Their Vision is to foster a movement of Catholics across the United States healed, converted, formed and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist and sent out in mission "for the life of the world."

An effort at the parish level is to offer the reflection by Bishop Robert Barron, "This is My Body", A Call to Eucharistic Revival to all parishioners. Copies of this book are available at the entrances to the church this weekend. I am inviting all households at the parish to spend some time becoming a bit more intentional in living Eucharistic lives beginning this weekend. If asked, "How intentional are you in living a eucharistic life?" would you answer in the affirmative? I will be focusing on this theme in the coming months in conversations, homilies, bulletin articles and interactions with you and others.

God bless you in "Eucharistic lives" of gratitude, generosity and compassion,

*Fr. Mike Macius*