



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Beginning this weekend, Sunday, September 10 through Pentecost Sunday in May, we will be offering a 5:00pm evening Mass at the Church of St. Mary. Due to the dates of holidays, there will be some occasions when a Sunday 5:00pm 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.

Chase Hawkins, our Youth Minister, has been reaching out to include high school teens in active liturgical roles in the 5:00pm Sunday Mass. With the support and encouragement of parents, we look forward to the high schoolers of our parish committing to help as ushers, lectors, sacristans, altar servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and music ministers. Contact Chase to ensure your teen is trained and scheduled. The fall semester of Youth Ministry begins this Sunday evening following the 5:00pm Mass. All high schoolers are encouraged to stop by the Rectory Patio after the 5:00pm Sunday Mass for a taco bar and games! Each Sunday, COR offers a space for all high schoolers to experience authentic community and discover God’s personal love for them. Let’s support and pray for our teens as they grow in faith, through the Eucharist and through COR at St. Mary’s.

This Is My Body written by Bishop Barron has been available at the entrances of the church for many weeks. It is for you to take, not to take and leave on a counter, but to take and read, to pray, to discuss with others.

Bishop Barron’s asks readers the following questions. (Even if you do not have a copy of the book, and have not read a word, paragraph or chapter, I invite all reading this article to ponder the following questions.)

What value does the Eucharist have in your own life?

How do you approach the altar to receive the Eucharist? (This includes the procession from your home, the timeliness of your arrival, and your full participation in the Mass.)

In what ways can you start to cherish the gift of the Eucharist more fully?

Members of the Parish Council and Finance Council have been working on possibilities of expanding our current “Sharing Parish opportunities” to the parishioners of St. Mary’s. I will be inviting their prayer to see if Christ the King Parish in Pemba, Zambia could be considered as the first international parish that we will support as a Sharing Parish from the parishioners of St Mary’s.

One of the other agenda items for the September Parish Council meeting will be discussing how the parish may be able to get more involved in life issues at our door. Last month I shared that moved by the headlines, news stories, and their faith in the Lord, a family in the parish wants to help spur others on at St. Mary’s to offer help and support to Catholic Charities efforts at caring for refugees. They are making a lead gift to the parish for \$10,000 with the hopes and belief that the parish will work together and match or exceed this lead gift. Perhaps you yourself have been moved by headlines, news stories, and your faith as well. If the Holy Spirit is guiding you to contribute, please clearly indicate on your donation that it is for Refugee Relief. Donations can be made via GiveCentral as well as through the offertory or the Parish Office.

Religious Education is still accepting registrations for the current year. Please reach out to Rosa Osuna or Joy Pacheco at the Religious Education Office with any questions about becoming a catechist, volunteering and supporting the Religious Education program at St. Mary’s.

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