



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Next Saturday we are inviting parishioners who are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary to pray at the 5:00pm Saturday Mass, to renew their vows, and to receive a blessing. If you were married in 1998, please reach out to my administrative assistant, Leslie Ardell, at Lardell@churchofstmary.org so we can properly plan for this anniversary Mass.

While we celebrate silver anniversaries, I am also mindful of couples whose marriages are strained. If your marriage has become troubled or stressed, unloving or uncaring, or if your relationship has grown cold or distant, if you are thinking of separation or divorce, or if you are already separated or divorced but want to try again – then Retrouvaille is the program that can help you.

For more information, you can visit the website, helpyourmarriage.org or call (800) 470.2230. There is an upcoming Retrouvaille in Libertyville on November 17-19. You can call or register online. Hope is only a phone call away.

Chase Hawkins has invited our youth to “recharge with friends in the beauty of God’s creation” by participating in a seven-hour pilgrimage to Holy Hill in Wisconsin. They will leave St. Mary’s Sunday, October 22, at 10:00am and will journey north in ample time to attend the 12 o’clock Noon Mass. Let’s pray that they have an enjoyable and spiritually uplifting day, guided by God.

Thursday, November 2, is the Feast of All Souls. We will have a Memorial Mass at 7:00pm. All are invited to come together as we celebrate our faith and our belief that through Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, we express our hope of salvation and eternal life for our loved ones and all of the faithful departed. In the past twelve months, in addition to the many parishioners who have died I am very aware of the number of diocesan priests that have died.

Since November 2, 2022, the Archdiocese of Chicago has buried two bishops and sixteen priests. Bishop John Manz was retired and still serving the local Church. Bishop Kevin Birmingham was only 51 years old when he died. Bishop Birmingham had just been appointed as the Auxiliary Bishop of Vicariate VI days before his sudden and unexpected death. Of the sixteen priests several were very active in parish ministry serving as pastors of parish unifications through the *Renew My Church* initiatives in the Archdiocese. Some of the priests were retired, serving the local Church in any number of ways. There is a void created by their deaths and the collective loss is felt in our Archdiocese. Please join us as we celebrate the memorial Mass on Thursday, November 2.

Parishioners have been very generous in supporting the Guild of St. Mary Clothing Drive. Donations will be accepted through next weekend, October 28 and 29. Perhaps you will be able to clean out a closet or two and find some clothes that would be able to be of great use to others. Thanks to all who have contributed to the Clothing Drive and to the Guild for sponsoring the drive this month.

When beginning my day in prayer with the Gospel reflection by Rev. Herb Yost, C.S.C. from Notre Dame, the following prayer caught my heart and spirit.

Lord Jesus, thank you for your patience with us. We are so slow—or maybe even unwilling—to believe that your way is the only way to peace and wholeness, both for ourselves and for our world. We’ve heard the Gospel so many times; we are aware of all our blessings, mostly undeserved; we are aware of how you protect us and care for us. Still we dither. Jesus, please give us the grace of actually wanting to follow you. Amen.

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