



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

We begin Catholic Schools Week this Sunday and I invite you to please join me in praying for our dedicated administration and faculty at our School. For information about the School of St. Mary, you can reach out to Dr. Julie Brua, Principal, Mrs. Kathy Thompson, Assistant Principal, or Mrs. Mandy Castle, Director of Admissions.

At the Masses this weekend, the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, we will have students who attend our “Blue Ribbon School” greeting parishioners as they come to Mass. All those worshipping in person will receive a piece of art work masterfully created by our students with the help of their teachers. Each student will express their own heartfelt appreciation of thanks to all the parishioners who support the School of St. Mary.

Dr. Brua is serving the community as principal this year. She takes extra effort and great pride in communicating with all stakeholders of the School of St. Mary. In weekly communications, to families, and to staff, she includes events that have taken place and upcoming events that will strengthen the faculty in working together with and for the children as well as letting the parents know of their children’s achievements and chances for the parents to get involved in the school.

In one of Dr. Brua’s communications this week she included a variety of “holy moments” she has witnessed with her eyes and with her faith as a Catholic leader. She invites all of the stakeholders of the School of St. Mary to be attentive to “holy moments” in their lives as well.

What “holy moments” are part of your day this weekend? What can you do in faith, in prayer, to be attentive to and on the lookout for “holy moments” in your life, in the life of a stranger, in the life of a family member? May “holy moments” be regular blessings in our lives.

As we hear our students express thanks, it is an invitation for us to look to God in gratitude for the faith we share and the life we live as followers of Jesus. Sunday’s Gospel is a continued proclamation of the passage from last Sunday. May the passage of Luke 4:18, the refrain for our Gospel acclamation, “*The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives,*” encourage us this winter day.



May God continue to bless all benefactors, students, family members, faculty, and families of the parish of our three times recognized Blue Ribbon School.

Earlier this week the Archdiocese of Chicago offered a Zoom® meeting, providing pastors, principals, and business managers with information to be used in working on the budgets for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Over the next month or two, members of the Parish Finance Council and School Advisory Board Finance Committee will be working together establishing the budgets for the School, the Religious Education Program, and parish ministries.

In these COVID days, many families generously support the Church of St. Mary with consistent offerings and tithing in the weekly offertory or by using GiveCentral (online giving) which are a blessing to the parish. Continued thanks and may families give as they are able in support of St. Mary’s.

May God bless you in 2022!

Fr. Mike Maciej