



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

This Saturday, February 4, our second-grade students came to church to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with their family and classmates. Children first learn of forgiveness in their homes, by hearing and saying; “I am sorry”, “I forgive you”, “I love you”, and “please forgive me.” Our young children always appreciate the joy of knowing God forgives them of their sins. It is a sacrament that I pray all people will celebrate to be healed and forgiven of sins.

The beautiful **Act of Contrition / Prayer of Sorrow** is learned by our students and is also found on the back cover of our parish missalette. *My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and in failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us, in His name, my God, have mercy.* I encourage all who are reading this to be able to recite this prayer by heart, in faith.

I hope that the following information is old news to one and to all. I am writing and or reminding about upcoming events, celebrations, and Masses that can be attended by parishioners, friends, neighbors, and family members.

This weekend, Saturday, February 4, there is a delicious mostaccioli dinner being prepared. The dinner will be held in the school cafeteria following the 5:00pm Saturday Mass. All are welcome to come enjoy a meal with friends and parishioners.

Our three-time Blue Ribbon awarded School is having a fun-filled Gala on March 4. The theme of this year’s School of St. Mary Gala is “Sparkle in the Northwoods.” The School Parents Association leadership have been hard at work for months putting together what will be a wonderful, festive, and joyous evening for all who attend. Tickets went on sale last month. They are already sold out – but don’t despair. You are invited to be part of the 2023 Gala Silent Auction. All proceeds from the Gala support the educational efforts and faith formation of our school children. The Gala is open to parishioners, family members, and friends. Many benefactors help the School of St. Mary provide Catholic education for our students. A link for the Silent Auction will be available soon!

We will begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, February 22. Prayer services and Masses will be offered as we begin the 40 days of Lent. In addition to our regular schedule of Masses on weekends, we are adding a Sunday evening Mass in Lent.

Please mark your calendars and share with family and friends that St. Mary’s will be offering a 5:00pm Mass on Sundays during Lent from February 26 to April 2. The Parish Staff, Parish Council, and Parish Liturgy Committee are hoping that we will have many parishioners come forward in the coming weeks, indicating that they are able to make a commitment and take a leadership role in the Mass. We are looking for lectors, ushers, altar servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, cantors, and singers.

The celebration of this additional Mass is significant because it is during the Lenten season, a time when people make an extra effort to return to God in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Thank you for your consideration in volunteering for this Mass during Lent.

May we turn to God who strengthens us in living with Christ in 2023,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mike Nacur".