

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE



We listen to the familiar Gospel passage of the Transfiguration, where God's voice from heaven proclaims: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." May all of us, individuals, families, all followers of Him, listen to Jesus as we journey in faith these days of Lent.

I am excited to share that during Lent the Church of St. Mary is participating in a survey conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute. The survey allows parishioners across the Archdiocese to reflect on their own spiritual growth and discipleship, and also identify ways in which the parish can support that growth. The survey will be accessible online and in paper form at the Parish Office and in the church until March 31. All responses will be anonymous and the parish will only receive a summary of all responses in total — no individual responses will be reported. It only takes 10-15 minutes to complete the survey. Results will greatly support the plans of the Archdiocese for the future.

Please follow this link: portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/g56ykg to complete the survey. Thanks for "sharing your voice" this Lent.

In Lent we make a concerted effort to draw closer to Jesus. We know Jesus as Lord and Savior, as Good Shepherd, as Mary's Son, as the Son of God. Each of us has our own personal relationship with Jesus. May the following reflection, "*Who is Jesus to You*" (author not cited) deepen your prayer this Lent.

To the artist, He is what is beautiful.
To the architect, He is the foundation.
To the baker, He is the bread of life.
To the banker, He is a hidden treasure.
To the biologist, He is the life.
To the builder, He is the cornerstone.
To the woodworker, He is the door.
To the doctor, He is the biggest specialist.
To the educator, He is the best teacher.
To the engineer, He is the only solution.
To the flower-seller, He is a bouquet.
To the chef, He is a perfect meal.
To the gardener, He is the most beautiful flower.
To the judge, He is true justice.
To the jeweler, He is the perfect diamond.
To the philosopher, He is the wisdom of God.
To the sculptor, He is a living stone.
To the servant, He is a good Master.
To the theologian, He is the author of faith.
To the sinner, He is forgiveness.
To all men and women, He is their Savior.
To God, He is 'my beloved Son.'

This Saturday is the annual Crusader Gala that supports the School of St. Mary. Tickets for the Gala sold out last month, but support is able to be made to the Gala's success. There is a "Silent Auction" that is available through 5:00pm on Sunday, March 5. The bidding started last week, but there is still time for you to cast your bid and or donate to the **Crusader Fund Silent Auction**. Our auction items were made possible by the generosity of the School of St. Mary families, as well as our wonderful parishioners, alumni, teachers, staff, and Lake Forest community friends. You can join in the Silent Auction by following this link: app.galabid.com/sosm2023/register. Thanks to those who are able to support the 2023 Crusader Gala, and a very special thanks to the co-chairs, Michelle Kijek and Katie Reynolds, and their generous team of volunteers that have worked tirelessly and excitedly for this joyful celebration.

This Sunday evening, March 5, at the 5:00pm Mass, we will welcome "Microscope" an a cappella group of talented singers from Woodlands Academy to St. Mary's. Thanks to Clara Bartusiak, a parishioner of St. Mary's, for bringing her classmates to her home parish for Mass.

May we be guided by God's grace this Lent,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.