



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. We had eight weeks of Winter Ordinary time, ordinary meaning counted, and now we come to the penitential and prayerful season of Lent. This calendar Lent is later than normal. This calendar year, Easter is later than normal. Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 2, we will celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, which is celebrated on April 17, a calendar date later than normal.

Trusting in the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives, may we prayerfully make sure that we are not late in entering into the season as we pray, give alms and sacrifice, so that we may grow in our faith and draw closer to Jesus Christ.



It was Wednesday morning, February 23, two days from what would have been my dad's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, my mom took her last breath on Earth. Mom was born on March 7, 1935 and died on February 24, 2022, a few days shy of her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mom was a devout Catholic throughout her life. She truly enjoyed coming to Mass at St. Mary's, taking "Her seat" in the front pew of the Church of St. Mary at the first Mass of the day on Sunday morning. On good days, I would be able to take her out to breakfast. COVID prevented my mom from coming to St. Mary's, but St. Mary's went to her when communion was brought to her. The picture below is from Christmas 2021 and the sign on the pew and rose was in the first pew of the Church of St. Mary, when we celebrated mom's Mass of the Resurrection on Saturday, February 26.



My mom began her generous life as a disciple of Jesus, welcomed into this world by her parents and older brothers and sister on March 7, 1935 – mom was baptized 17 days later, on March 24 at Mother of God Church in North Chicago. When she was baptized, she was also anointed with the following prayer being spoken: "God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and joined you to his people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of Salvation, so that you may remain as a member of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King unto eternal life. Amen." Her life in the Lord continued in prayer and sacrament at Mother of God where some 22 years later she and my dad would marry, committing themselves to love each other in good times and bad, in sickness and health, until death do they part. Our mom and dad fulfilled their vows when our father breathed his last in May 2015. May the Lord, saints and angels, deceased family members and friends, receive Lorrie Nacius into the peace of her heavenly home.



Recently I received get well notes from the Students of the School of St. Mary. It takes time to read over 400 get well wishes. A few of my favorites from our loving children for my recovery from knee replacement surgery include....

- \* Dear Fr. Nacius, I hope you feel better next time. I hope God makes you better. Blessings.
- \* Dear Fr. Mike, hope you feel bet soon and get up and about. PS Jesus is always with you.
- \* Get well, you knee'd not worry about your surgery.

Thank God there isn't spell check for hand written notes of love and support from children in the PGC and UGC to their pastor.

God bless you with a spiritually enriching and renewing Lenten season,

*Fr. Mike Nacius*