

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE



Tuesday, April 18 will be a very special evening at the Church of St. Mary. Bishop Jeffrey Grob, the auxiliary bishop of Vicariate 1, will be at St. Mary's to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. If you are asking yourself if I didn't let you know that Bishop Kane was in town at St. Mary's last month to confirm our youth, I would say you are correct. A number of our youth were out of town on a special field trip. Upon learning of that scheduling conflict back in the fall, Joy Pacheco, St. Mary's Director of Religious Education, began preparing for Bishop Grob to come to St. Mary's as well as Bishop Kane. The students, sponsors, and families are looking forward to this intimate and joyous celebration of confirmation this coming Tuesday. When you are led by the Holy Spirit of God, being flexible and adaptable are part of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

In addition to confirming our students Tuesday evening, Bishop Grob will be blessing the new and enlarged baptismal font at our parish. In these or similar words, Bishop Grob will pray:

*Lord God, Creator of the world and Father of all who are born into it,
it is right that we should give you praise for allowing us to open this saving font
through the liturgy of your Church.*

*Here the door is reopened to the life of the spirit and the gateway to the Church is swung
wide to those against whom the gates of paradise were shut.
This pool is opened and in it the newness of pure waters will again make clean and spotless
those who were stained by the old ways of sin.*

A new torrent is released whose gushing waters sweep away sin and bring new virtue to life.

*A stream of living water, coming from Christ's side, now flows
and those who drink this water will be brought to eternal life.*

*Over this font the lamp of faith spreads the holy light that banishes darkness from the mind
and fills those who are reborn here with heavenly gifts.*

*Those who profess their faith at this font are plunged beneath the waters and joined to Christ's death,
so that they may rise with him to newness of life.*

*Lord, we ask you to send the life-giving presence of your Spirit upon this font,
placed here as the source of new life for your people.*

*The power of the Spirit made the Virgin Mary the mother of your Son;
send forth the power of the same Spirit,
so that your Church may present you with countless new sons and daughters
and bring forth new citizens of heaven.*

*Grant, O Lord, that the people who are reborn from this font may fulfill in their actions
what they pledge by faith and show by their lives what they begin by the power of your grace.*

*Let the people of different nations and conditions who come forth as one from these waters of rebirth show by their
love that they are brothers and sisters and by their concord that they are citizens of the one kingdom.*

*Make them into true sons and daughters who reflect their Father's goodness, disciples who are faithful to the teaching
of their one Master, temples in whom the voice of the Spirit resounds.*

Grant that they may be witnesses to the Gospel, doers of the works of holiness.

*Enable them to fill with the Spirit of Christ the earthly city where they live,
until they are welcomed home in the heavenly Jerusalem. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

Parishioners are invited to come together in prayer, praying with and for our students who will be confirmed and praying with Bishop Grob who will be blessing the new baptismal font. The Confirmation Mass begins at 7:00pm Tuesday evening, April 18. All are welcome.

Are your calendars already marked with the wonderful opportunity to come together on Sunday, April 23 or Monday, April 24? Greg Kozak will be back for the third of his presentations on *Living the Liturgy, The Other 167 Hours of the Week*. Greg shared with us ideas and a focus in which to live Advent and Lent. He concludes his trinity of presentations on how we are to live the joy, the hope and the promise of resurrection with our family, co-workers, parishioners, and friends. The presentations take place in the church and last for 75 minutes. You are invited to bring a family member or a friend with you to grow from this Adult Education opportunity this Easter Season. It is not necessary that you attended either or both of the previous presentations. Each presentation stands on its own focus and inspiration to live "eucharistic lives" as followers of our Risen Lord.

Heartfelt thanks to all who remember St. Mary's with a donation at Easter.

God bless you in living Easter joy in our Risen Lord and Savior,

Fr. Mike Macur