



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Happy Easter! With prayerful hearts the faithful parishioners entered into the deep mystery of the Sacred Triduum on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil, rich in tradition, alive with hope, began our celebration of our Lord and Savior's Resurrection. The Easter Sunday Masses brought people to pray into the empty tomb, welcoming the new life of Resurrection dawning in our world. Christ has been raised, it is true.

"Many hands make light work," is always evidenced at the Church of St. Mary. Special appreciation is offered to those who made our celebrations, experiences of a lived faith of people of God at the Church of St. Mary. Thanks to Lake Forest Flowers for the beautiful Easter arrangements in the church, for the members of the Art and Environment Committee, all of the cantors and choir members that sang Easter Alleluias, and the members of our maintenance department who readied the church for our celebrations of the Resurrection of Jesus our Savior.

The Easter Vigil was filled with an energizing spirit as six children were baptized into Christ Jesus. Lois and Seth Lee, Lucas, Milana, Anna, and Christopher Spehlmann were baptized that glorious evening. Each of them, in their own voice, said "I do", when asked if they believed in Jesus. May all of us speak through our actions during the Easter season and throughout our lives.



Heartfelt thanks to those who chose Operation Rice Bowl that supports Catholic Relief Services as part of your Lenten almsgiving. If your contribution is still on your counter, please return it to the church or Parish Office as soon as you are able. Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers us this beautiful Easter Prayer.

**Lord of All,
Help us to rise each day to Easter.
Teach us to practice Resurrection,
To seek love and forgiveness and new life.
Remind us as the earth re-blooms
To open wide our hands to receive resurrection blessings.
So that we may be your blessings to others. Amen.**

Parishioners are invited to come and celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:00pm. We will gather with staff members, guests, and parishioners to pray the chaplet near the image of the Divine Mercy by the entrance to the Parish Office. We live and share the truth of God's love, grace, and mercy. We pray, "**Have mercy on us and on the whole world!**" May each of us, with the help and the grace of God, live lives of mercy shared with the least in our midst.

You are invited to enjoy some conversation and a cup of juice or coffee after the 8:00am and 10:00am Masses this Sunday. Donuts will be served in the school cafeteria after the early morning Masses on Sunday, April 24.

Next Saturday is a very special and beautiful day at the Church of St. Mary. We will celebrate the first Holy Communion of our students with two Masses being celebrated. May the children, their parents, and families regularly receive the Eucharist, as we grow and share Easter joy with the world.

May God bless us as we walk with Jesus in newness of life,

Fr. Mike Maciej