



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

This week has been filled with Easter celebrations at the Church of St. Mary. Earlier this week the Religious Education program completed its year, serving the children of the families of the Church of St. Mary. Each year during Lent, the classrooms participate in the Catholic Relief Services “Rice Bowl” campaign. With prayers, with almsgiving, with excitement, the students work with their classmates to be the grade that contributes more than any other grade in the Lenten almsgiving Rice Bowl. The end of the year prayer service highlights the generosity of the students and families, and all receive a small chocolate

Rice Krispies candy bar. The class that contributes the largest offering to feed the hungry throughout the RE Rice Bowl challenge is given a larger candy bar. All of the students are enriched by the prayers, the competition, and the treat given to them on the last day of class.

The Religious Education program, facilitated by Mrs. Jeannie Brunk, the parish Director of Religious Education and Mrs. Joy Pacheco, the Associate Director, work with the faith-filled catechists and supportive families in offering a faith-filled learning environment for the children to grow in their faith. The RE program has sessions on Sunday mornings, on Tuesday afternoons and evenings as well as the intensive program, which includes one week in the summer and six Sundays during the school year. We are busy completing and wrapping up this year, with registration for next year beginning on Sunday, May 1. All families interested in learning more about the offerings of the RE program are encouraged to contact the Religious Education office.

The Parent’s Association of the School of St. Mary (SOSM) offers events and opportunities for families of the School of St. Mary to come together in friendship, to come together in support, to come together to raise funds to support the educational efforts at the SOSM. Some of the events are “fun raisers” while others are “fund raisers.” An important “Fund Raiser” is now just weeks away, the 2022 Spring Gala. There are many ways that you can support the Parent’s Association, support the SOSM and support the 2022 Spring Gala. You can visit the Gala website at bit.ly/SOSMGala.

The funds raised at the Spring Gala helps the School of St. Mary thrive by supporting:

- ◆ Exceptional academics
- ◆ Technology, tools, and resources for every child and in every classroom
- ◆ Opportunities for learning outside the classroom through athletics, the arts, leadership development, and spiritual growth
- ◆ Financial aid to help Crusader families
- ◆ Competitive salaries, benefits, and ongoing professional development for our dedicated and caring faculty and staff

Thanks to the many sponsors and the many benefactors of the Church of St. Mary that support the School of St. Mary. I hope to see many of you at the *Dancing in the Moonlight 2022 Spring Gala* on Friday, May 13.

While scanning some files, I came across the following. In the poem, “The Wreck of the Deutschland,” Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, ‘Let Him Easter in us.’ Our lives are forever different when we allow Jesus to Easter in us. When we let Jesus Easter in us we are changed in ways we do not fully understand. Jesus in me can transform my attitude; give me a simpler outlook, a more childlike hope. The power of the Resurrection continues to transform our lives and in turn our world. As we live these extraordinary 50 days of the Easter Season in 2022, may each of us let Jesus ‘*Easter in us.*’

This Saturday, April 30 is a very special day for the Church of St. Mary. We celebrate first Holy Communion for our students who have been desiring to share in the Eucharist with their family members and fellow parishioners. May our joyous First Communicants find spiritual nourishment in the celebrating of the Mass and the gift of the Eucharist every week in their lives, as they live and give thanks for Jesus in the Sacraments, in the Eucharist, in their family, and in their parish.

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