

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE



Blessed and joyous Easter season to you as we share the hope of eternal life in our Risen Lord.

The fifty days of the Easter season provide the faithful beautiful Scripture passages and liturgies to proclaim our Lord and Savior's victory over sin and death. Through the beautiful liturgies and moving Scripture passages we are able to pray into the season with hearts open to the blessings of joy, hope, peace, and promises of Jesus, our Risen Lord.

The penitential Lenten season of 40 days helped prepare us for the joyous Easter season of 50 days. Many parishioners and faithful members of the Parish Staff worked throughout both seasons to help our celebrations be beautiful, prayerful, and spirit-filled.

Members of the Art & Environment Ministry prepared the environment inside and outside of the church for these seasons. We give thanks for the kindness of Lake Forest Flowers in adorning the sanctuary with lilies and flowers, signs of new life in our Risen Lord. The Music Ministry under the leadership of Marek Rachelski expanded our repertoire for praying and singing twice. The deacons and clergy led us in prayer. The members of our maintenance staff kept the church and grounds clean and safe for the coming together of family, parishioners, friends, and guests to our parish. The School and Religious Education staff members prepared our children for the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. A few bottles of Easter Holy Water are still available at the entrances of the church for your devotional use in private prayer at home or with loved ones. Yes, we have much to be thankful for in the dedicated ministry and support offered when two or three come together in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord.

Our Religious Education catechists and School teachers work with parents in teaching and modeling faith filled lives. Parents are the primary educators of their children in the ways of faith. We are able to teach and reinforce Church doctrine. The lived and shared faith in the home is most important in current and next generations of believers to be active in living their faith.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of two healing sacraments of the Catholic Church. The other healing sacrament is the Sacrament of Reconciliation; also known as confession. Both of these healing sacraments can and should be celebrated regularly and often in one's life, when God's grace is needed to keep us on the right path in living our lives in Jesus.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick can be received while one is preparing for surgery, receiving medical treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation, when one is dealing with a chronic illness, as well as when one is near death. There are times when a sudden and catastrophic health episode catches a family off guard. Often is the case where one's health slowly and gradually deteriorates as one's earthly journey is nearing its completion. Please know that the Sacrament of Anointing can be received many times in one's life, and that Fr. Radley and I are here to pray with and support you or a family member.

There are times when a chaplain or family member reaches out to the parish asking for a priest to come and anoint, as the situation is dire and death is imminent. I can assure you Fr. Radley and I do all we can to respond to those requests for anointing, when we are able to. There are times when we may be ministering to another family in a similar crisis and are not able to respond when the call comes in. Please do not wait until the last hour of your loved one's time on earth. Please reach out when you can, ahead of time, so that your loved one may be anointed. I can assure you that I have anointed many people, many times, and every time they are anointed they are very appreciative of the prayer, the care, and the healing that comes with the grace of our God. If you, a family member, or loved one are open to this healing sacrament, please call the Parish Office at (847) 234.0205 and we will set up an appointment to pray with you and your loved ones. In an emergency outside of office hours, please call (847) 582. 2518.

Jesus teaches us that whenever two or three are gathered together in His name, He is present with us. That truth is always realized in all of our lives of faith. Over the last number of years, through St. Mary's and in Lake Forest, a group of men come together to meet, to pray, and to support each other. MASS (Men Are Suicide Survivors) is a men's group that provides support and understanding to men who have suffered a loss by suicide of a loved one. The group meets every other month in-person at Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest, IL on Monday evenings from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Meeting dates are available through Gorton Community Center. There are Zoom meetings the months when the group is not meeting in person. If you have any questions, contact Bill Teskoski at (312) 560.3119.

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

Fr. Mike Macur