



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Faith is a gift from God, that we receive, and that we develop while we journey in faith on Earth. Many in our parish are “cradle Catholics”; they have been brought up in the Catholic Church. There are many in our parish, who are parishioners who have come into the Church through the RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. There are some in our parish, that have been raised in another Christian faith tradition and support their spouse and children in living the faith and the traditions of the Catholic Church.

The RCIA team has been meeting with people over the summer that are interested in learning more about a life as a follower of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, born of the Blessed Mother, in the Catholic Church. The RCIA team is hoping that you will assist them in passing on the word, extending the invitation, encouraging those who are not Catholic, to begin the RCIA program this month. There are steps along the way for people to deepen their resolve to grow in a relationship with Jesus, lived in the Catholic Church.

The RCIA program begins formally next Wednesday, September 14 at 6:45pm. We will be meeting in the Parish Center. All who are interested in learning more about the faith, about being a follower of Jesus, are invited to attend. Please reach out to Lore Nugent or a member of the RCIA team to learn more about joining others in the RCIA this fall. Contact information is on the following page.

The Religious Education department is very excited about bringing back the Children’s Liturgy of the Word, CLOW, at the 10:00am Sunday Mass. Following the opening prayer, the CLOW catechists and children ages kindergarten through 6th grades come forward in the sanctuary to receive a blessing from the priest. The catechists lead the children over to the school where they share with the children a “child focused” homily/lesson on the Sunday scriptures. The children with the catechist come back to church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Families are invited to attend the 10:00 am Mass and send their children forth for the Children’s Liturgy of the Word. The next session of CLOW will begin later this month and we will keep you informed of the date. For more information about this wonderful program at St. Mary’s please reach out to Joy Pacheco at (847) 582.2524. Also reach out to Mrs. Pacheco if you would like more information regarding enrolling your child in the RE program.

The year 1972 was very special for many in our parish. It was 50 years ago, in 1972, that couples entered into the Sacrament of Marriage. Cardinal Cupich and the Archdiocese have a very special Mass and blessing for couples celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary – to register for the Archdiocesan celebration, please visit pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding. If you have any questions regarding this Mass, please email GoldenWedding@archchicago.org.

You are invited to come and pray at St. Mary’s whenever your schedule allows, for private prayer as well as for sharing in the Eucharist. Thursday, September 15 we will have a special opportunity to join others in a “Prayer for Peace”, invoking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. The church will be open following the 7:30am Mass and you will be able to spend time in prayer with the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, on the US Tour for Peace. A full schedule will be posted in next weekend’s bulletin.

Thanks to Deacon Jack and Deacon Bob for inviting our support of the “*Hope’s on the Way*” ministry of deacons throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. You can bring items (listed in the article on the next page) to support this outreach next weekend and place your donations in the baskets at the entrances to the church.

May God guide and bless us with hearts of compassion and forgiveness,