



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Each and every time we participate and celebrate in the Mass, we are nourished in Word and Sacrament. The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are the two liturgies that make up the Catholic Mass. If we participate in the Mass in Lake Forest, if we participate in the Mass in the Archdiocese of Chicago, if we participate in the Mass in another Catholic church, shrine, chapel, or basilica anywhere in the world we are coming together to give thanks to God with other believers in Jesus our Lord.

Our public ritual is an act of thanksgiving. Being sent forth from the celebration, from the Sacrament, we are to live the Eucharist - to live the Sacrament - in our lives. One very special way we do this is being caring and generous towards others. This month, the Guild of St. Mary is offering parishioners two opportunities to be generous. The Guild Christmas Sharing Tree is supporting our Sharing Parish as well as Catholic Charities' Celebration of Giving. The last two weeks, there have been "ornament tags" on the trees inviting monetary donations to be pooled together for gift cards for distribution at our Sharing Parish, Most Blessed Trinity Parish in Waukegan. These cards will be forwarded to Most Blessed Trinity Parish in the coming weeks for the Christmas holiday.

The "ornament tags", in the trees this weekend, list information of a family and ideas of what can be purchased for Christmas gifts for members of that family. These gifts are asked to be returned on December 2 and 3 so they can be brought to Catholic Charities to and given to families for a joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Your kindness and generosity to the Guild of St. Mary Christmas Sharing Tree will brighten the lives of those who receive a gift card or gifts this Christmas.

The School of St. Mary (SOSM) students go to Mass weekly. The students at the Upper Grade Center (UGC) come to Mass on Tuesdays at 9:00am. The students at the Primary Grade Center (PGC) are brought to St. Patrick's Church for Mass on Wednesday's at 9:10am. It takes the students of the PGC a little longer to walk from the PGC to St. Patrick's than our bigger students. Parishioners and guests are always welcome at the school Masses.

At a recent SOSM Mass the recessional hymn was #381, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" in the **Today's Missal Music Issue**. The words had added impact for me as I was walking down the aisle singing with the students, faculty, and guests. Following are the verses of the hymn.

*"Sent forth by God's blessing our true faith confessing, The people of God from his dwelling take leave. God's sacrifice ended, O now be extended The fruits of this Mass in all hearts who believe. The seed of Christ's teaching, our inner souls reaching, Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us, To further God's kingdom and answer his call.*

*With praise and thanksgiving, to God who is living, The tasks of our ev'ryday life we embrace. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, We claim as our neighbor all those of each race. One bread that has fed us, one light that has led us, Unite us as one in his life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving, Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear."*

Coming together to be nourished by the gift of the Eucharist strengthens us for living and sharing our faith. As the students and faculty sang, "Sent forth by God's blessing our true faith confessing, The people of God from his dwelling take leave. God's sacrifice ended, O now be extended, The fruits of this Mass in all hearts who believe." May we always find nourishment and strength in the Eucharist we share.

You are invited to come together in thanksgiving at the Thanksgiving Day Mass at St. Mary's at 9:00am on Thursday, November 23, with parishioners, family members, and guests. We welcome all those in town to celebrate with family and friends this Thanksgiving. I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving filled with God's blessings.

God bless you in living "Eucharistic lives" of gratitude, generosity, and compassion,

*Fr. Mike Nacur*