



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

As members of St. Mary’s, as baptized Catholics, as followers of Jesus, we strive to model our lives on His. As recorded in the four Gospels, we learn from the evangelists of Jesus public ministry, of His calling the disciples, of Jesus spreading the Good News of God’s Kingdom for all people and His sacrificial death for the forgiveness of sins. His resurrection brought hope to the disciples, it is that same hope that strengthens and sustains us as His followers as we await His Second Coming.

Following his example of prayer; teaching the disciples to pray as well as going off by himself to pray, we ourselves can remain united with God through communication, through prayer. As did Jesus, we spend time personally with God in private prayer as well as with the community of believers in public prayer; whenever we participate in the Mass and other prayer services and devotions with others. Yes, we do pray as individuals, but it is in community that we believe that “whenever two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name he is there in our midst.”

The prayer of the parish church is where the community comes together. The prayer of the parish church is where the Eucharist is shared, and the sacraments are celebrated. It is in the domestic church, the homes of believers, that faith is shared, faith is modeled, and faith is passed on from one generation to another.

Do you remember praying “The Morning Offering” in your home growing up? The words of the morning offering are: **“My God, I offer you today, all I think and do and say, uniting it with what was done on earth by Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.”** When in the Primary Grade Center, Clare Lyons one of our second-grade teachers was sharing the prayer with her students. She shared with me that her family has prayed this prayer together for over 20 years and wanted to share this with her students. It is my prayer that many of her students and their families, as well as parents reading this article will share the Morning Offering in their homes as they encourage their children to look to God at the beginning of the day and trust in God throughout the day.

Thanks to Deacon Jack and Deacon Bob for inviting our support of the “*Hope is on the Way*” ministry of deacons throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. You can bring items to support this act of charity and place your donations in the baskets at the entrances to the Church. May the generosity of our parishioners, and all others supporting this effort of Archdiocese of Chicago Permanent Deacons be a blessing to those who receive “Hope on the Way”!

Members of the local Knights of Columbus (K of Cs) Council will be receiving your kind and generous donations as they once again receive funds to support people with intellectual disabilities.



You will have no difficulty spotting the members of the K of C as they will be wearing their bright yellow vests, not only at St. Mary’s next weekend, but around town as well. Thanks for supporting the K of Cs and this very important cause.

All are welcome this coming Thursday, September 15, as 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 is posted on the next page of this bulletin. Thanks to all of those who come together to offer prayer and time to grow in faith here at St. Mary’s.

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