



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

During the month of October, the Parish Staff and Parish Council are encouraging parishioners to reach out and pray the rosary with someone. You may reach out to a neighbor or friend that you haven't seen as regularly as you would want during the COVID-19 pandemic. You are invited and encouraged to reach out to a friend, to pray the rosary together honoring our Blessed Mother.

*"Teach them to say the Rosary, the family Rosary, and all will be well..."*  
(Our Lady Mother Teresa of Calcutta)



I hope and pray that you know that you are important and that you count. In a special focused way, you count at the Church of St. Mary. Throughout the year, but during this month, I hope and pray that all who claim St. Mary's as their faith home, their parish, the community where they give of their time, talent, and treasure, come together to be counted. Perhaps in the remaining weeks of this month you will be able to bring someone with you to be counted.

During the month of October parishes across the United States regularly take an "October count" at the Saturday evening Vigil and Sunday Masses. The "October count" is used by the local Archdiocese regarding planning, assignments of clergy and related issues in serving the parishioners of each parish as well as serving the larger local church across the Archdiocese. The "October count" was not taken last year because of the COVID pandemic. Parishes are instructed by the Archdiocese to take the October count this year.

I have had many people share with me the ease and comfort of participating in the celebration of the Mass from their homes, sometimes with a cup of coffee in their hand with breakfast. Routines take time to develop, they take time to be altered and changed for the better. I pray for all in our Church, all in our parish to return to the routine, the practice, the active participation in the Mass, being nourished in Word and Sacrament, as followers of Jesus and as members of the Church of St. Mary. Come and be counted.

Next Sunday following the Sunday Masses you have the chance to support one of the local Scouting troops. Annually they sell popcorn, wreaths and other items to help fund their outings and trips. Several of our children asked if they could receive your support in this year's sale. You can pre-order via the following: [www.trails-end.com/store/scout/OD0S66LL?share=60FGF50U](http://www.trails-end.com/store/scout/OD0S66LL?share=60FGF50U) and [go.wreathsaleapp.com/troop48wreaths2021/14714a](http://go.wreathsaleapp.com/troop48wreaths2021/14714a) and/or speak to one of the Scouts after Mass next Sunday morning.

Each year Cardinal Cupich recognizes parishioners from every parish in the Archdiocese with the Parochial Christi Fidelis Award. The award prayer service and ceremony took place last week at Holy Name Cathedral. This award is bestowed upon Catholic laypeople who demonstrate the personal and ministerial renewal called for by the papal exhortation, *Christifideles Laici*, calling the laity to the vocation of responsibility for the Church's life, springing from the gift of their baptism by participation in parish life. Each recipient is a practicing Catholic who manifests an understanding of the teachings of the Church and has been graced with a life formed in the Catholic spiritual tradition. The award recipient has used their talents to deepen the life of the Church in the parish or has served in extraordinary ways to the ministry of the parish.

This year, the recipient of the award from the Church of St. Mary is Camille Devaney. Pictured (*to the right*) with her in the sanctuary of Holy Name Cathedral are from left to right, Maria and Allison Olague, Ken Devaney, Camille, John and Jenny Devaney. It was a beautiful ceremony led by Cardinal Cupich and attended by representatives from around the Archdiocese as well as all of the auxiliary bishops.



Congratulations to couples married in 1995 or 1996 that have recently celebrated their silver 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Parishioners celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary attended the Mass this Saturday evening, October 9, to receive a blessing from their parish. May all couples continue to know the power of God's grace living their vows in sickness and in health until death do they part.

May God bless us with compassionate hearts, respecting all life.

*Fr. Mike Naciri*