

Praised be Jesus Christ!

In just a couple of weeks we will enter into the holiest days of the year. Beginning with Palm Sunday we will journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, to the Mount of Olives, to Calvary, and to the empty tomb. This is the most transformative week of the entire year! What was once the greatest instrument of humiliation and death has become the source of love and life.

I invite you to reflect upon what needs to be transformed in your life. What sin? What habit? What relationship? Whatever it is, leave it at the foot of the cross and run with joy to the empty tomb knowing that He is risen; He is risen indeed. I look forward to praying with all of you during this Holy Week and Sacred Triduum. Please see the website for prayer opportunities and Mass times.

The second part of this month's letter pertains to the announcement that after a two-year absence, St. Mary plans to hold our parish festival July 8, 9, and 10th, 2022. However, this is very much dependent upon our ability to get enough volunteers to fill the more than 1100 volunteer slots.

It has been so long since the last event, that we are almost starting from scratch. This year's festival may not look exactly like past festivals. We are asking you to please consider making the festival a priority in your summer plans.

Thankfully, most of our chair people are returning for another year, however, we have a few critical leadership openings. These include:

- An electrician to head the festival set-up; filling this opening is vital.
- A Children's Games Chair. School families and families with kids in our Catholic Formation classes are especially encouraged to consider helping with this area.
- A Pizza Booth Chair
- Someone with medical training to chair our First Aid area
- It takes more than 150 volunteers to run our three dinners (chicken, fish fry, and mostaccioli) in the cafeteria. It's possible we may only do these dinners on a carry out basis this year.

We can host a festival comparable to what was done in the past if we have the volunteers to do so. If we don't get the people we need, we will have to either reduce festival hours or limit the activities and games we typically provide.

We need everyone to sign up ASAP this year. The website will be active in mid-April, and you can begin to sign up. We need a lot of help to make this happen for the St Mary Community and we need to be able to gauge our volunteer strength much earlier this year than in the past.

If you are willing to volunteer as a committee chair or want more information on how you can help, please contact Dave Lownik at 414-702-1253.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz