

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Back to school! Back to football! These are probably the two most common phrases during this time of year and as the days shorten, kids return to school, and yes, football season is upon us. While summer is not officially over, and we still have plenty of nice days ahead, we look back on a wonderful summer here in the parish. In June we concluded a great school year and had a beautiful Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi Sunday through our neighborhood. It was very powerful to have about 75 people praying together as Jesus was brought into the neighborhood and some folks outside on their lawn waiting for Jesus. In July, our festival returned after a 36-month hiatus and what an incredible weekend that was. The weather was perfect all three days and so much fun was had by all who attended. Having the community back together like that was so awesome. A tremendous word of thanks to all who helped make our festival possible. Then, in August, we celebrated our Patronal Feast with beautiful Masses and some of our parish families presenting roses to our Blessed Mother in the Annunciation Niche. We were blessed to be able to offer hospitality on Sunday morning, and you could really sense the joy as we gathered after Mass for some treats and coffee. Finally, that Sunday marked the first Sunday of offering Intercessory Prayer. Our Pastoral Care team will have prayer ministers available after the 9AM Mass the first Sunday of the month to pray with you if needed. What a beautiful opportunity to grow in your relationship with Jesus by praying with someone else. All of that is to say we have so many wonderful things happening and I first give thanks to God and the Holy Spirit for providing the inspiration and the grace to make them happen. I'm likewise thankful to all the members of our parish family that put in time and effort for all these great things.

September also marks the beginning of the Pastoral Council Cycle. Three members of the council completed their terms, Tom Bartnicki, Lisamarie Collins, and Deb Schenk. I am so grateful for their service to our parish and for the help they afforded me in my first year. With that, we welcome three new members to the council. Steven Rice, Patti Peters, and Janet Miller were discerned last month. I'm excited for them to share their wisdom and faith on the Pastoral Council.

Lastly, I invite all of us to pray in a particular way for our students and teachers at the beginning of this school year. The formation and education of our children is vitally important. We are blessed here at St. Mary with an outstanding staff and faculty that cares not only about knowledge, but about faith. For the many sacrifices of our teachers we say thank you and promise to hold you, the students, and staff in our prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron Laskiewicz
Parish Administrator