

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Happy Easter to you all as we still celebrate the wonder of the Resurrection during this joyous Easter Season. I pray that you all had wonderful Easter celebrations with family and friends. We surely prayed well here at St. Mary during the entirety of Holy Week, the Triduum, and Easter being incredibly beautiful. I agree with many people who said to me that they felt something different this year. I believe that something is the Holy Spirit alive in our parish and touching our hearts in familiar, but also, new and wonderful ways.

In the month of May our attention turns in a particular way to our Blessed Mother. May is one of the Marian months of the year and as such we are going to honor Mary with a couple of different events. We are going to have two May Crowning prayer services. One with our school children on May 2nd during the 8:15a.m. Mass where our fourth graders will present flowers to our Blessed Mother. The other one is with the entire parish on Mother's Day May 14th following the 9:00a.m. Mass. Everyone will be invited to the Labyrinth following Mass where we will sing, pray, and have some of our First Communicants offer flowers to our Blessed Mother. Also, throughout the month of May we will pray the Rosary on Monday evenings during Adoration at 6:30p.m.

Let's be clear, it is not that Mary has replaced Jesus in our focus. Rather, Mary is the one that always leads us to her Son. In turning our attention to Mary, we are actually strengthening our relationship with Jesus. We believe that Mary is the quickest path to Jesus. As we give her due honor this month we do so knowing that we are drawing closer to Jesus as well. In the Wedding Feast at Cana, when people came to Mary asking for help she said, "Do whatever He tells you." If only we could do that too! Such a simple command yet so very difficult to do. The servants listened and a miracle happened right before their eyes. I wonder how many miracles might happen in our lives if we would do whatever Jesus tells us. Unfortunately, our pride and our sin get in the way. As fallen human beings we still have the tendency to think that we know best or that we can solve the problems ourselves. Sometimes we think we know the best path and that does not always include Jesus. Yet, Mary reminds us what a true disciple looks like. A true disciple is one that continually says yes to the Lord, abandons and surrenders themselves to God, and does whatever Jesus tells them.

As we honor Blessed Mary in so many beautiful ways this month, let us commit ourselves to growing in our discipleship by saying yes and listening to the Lord. Continued Easter blessings to you all!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Parish Administrator