

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is mainly because the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the prayers offered through the Rosary. Thus, October is a special month for us at St. Mary Parish. To celebrate and honor Mary this month, we have a number of great discipleship events I would like to share with you.

First, we will be praying the Rosary every Monday in October at 6:30 p.m. during Eucharistic Adoration. Since October is also Respect Life Month, our Respect Life Committee will be organizing this prayer for the parish. What a beautiful connection using the Rosary to pray for the protection of the unborn. Secondly, we will have Fr. John LoCoco speak to us on Tuesday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m. Fr. LoCoco is the Vocations Director for the Archdiocese and one of the preachers for the National Eucharistic Revival. Fr. LoCoco will be speaking on *Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist*. It is sure to be a powerful and informative evening as we continue to deepen our love for Jesus in the Eucharist. Besides all of that...Fr. LoCoco is my classmate! Finally, we will offer Magnify, an evening of praise, worship, and adoration on October 25th at 6:30 p.m.

I highlight these events not simply for the sake of advertising and making sure we have “good numbers”. No, these are just some of the opportunities to encounter Jesus more deeply. These are opportunities to grow in holiness and discipleship. The purpose of the parish is to help people become saints and get to heaven. Everything that we do falls under that central purpose. By saying yes to some extra prayer time either on Mondays, or Magnify, or praying the Rosary, it is an opening of one’s heart to God. It does not take much and we do not have to make it more complicated than it is. Perhaps you have a desire to know a little bit more and come to our Parish Mission with Fr. LoCoco. That is an example of taking an initiative with your faith and going deeper.

My challenge to you is a personal invitation. Think of someone that you can bring with you to one or all of these opportunities. Maybe it is a family member or close friend. Perhaps it is the person that you sit next to at Mass every week. Imagine what it would be like to come pray and sing with Jesus in adoration with a full church! How powerful and beautiful that would be!

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
(Collect for the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Pastor