

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I am so happy to share that this year's St. Mary Parish Festival was one of the most successful to date. While I don't have the final numbers at the time of writing this letter, we expect to profit over \$100,000. Wow! What a huge success and there is plenty of gratitude to go around. First, we give thanks to Almighty God for providing superb weather all three days. We also thank God that everyone who attended the festival was safe and responsible. I personally heard a few comments about the wonderful community feel on the grounds. Dave Lownik and Bobby Coleman, I know, are so proud of this year's success and I thank them for their leadership and devoted service. To the entire festival committee, we are thankful for everything you have done to ensure our success. Remember, this isn't a few week commitment but rather a commitment of months worth of time getting everything prepared. Of course, to all those who volunteered and attended the festival – THANK YOU!

Our festivities continue this month as the month of August holds the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We claim this Marian Solemnity as our Patronal Feast. Our Patronal Feast is a wonderful opportunity to thank Mary for her patronage of our parish. I believe, and I am sure you do too, that the growth of our parish and all the good things happening are due to her intercession. Mary is the quickest way to Jesus, she always leads her people to her Son. The month of August, then, is dedicated to Mary and we honor her under the title of the Assumption. Since this solemnity is our Patronal Feast, we celebrate our long and storied history. For over 180 years this parish has served the people of this area starting with the Irish immigrants who settled here. For over 180 years people have come to know and love God through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. Just imagine for a moment all the people who have served the People of God in this parish, both clergy and lay alike. A note about our Patronal Feast celebration, since the Solemnity (August 15) falls on a Tuesday this year the Solemnity cannot be moved to the nearest weekend as we have done in the past. So, we are going to have our Marian devotion and celebrate our Patronal Feast on the weekend of August 12 and 13 while liturgically celebrating the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. This will be a hospitality weekend with perhaps another fun surprise as a way for us to celebrate. On Tuesday, August 15, we will have our usual Holy Day Mass schedule fulfilling that Holy Day of Obligation.

As we enter the dog days of summer, we will soon turn our focus back to school, get excited for another football season, and see parish activities flourish once again. Enjoy these summer days and let's give thanks to God for the beauty of the sun and the warmth.

Blessings,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Parish Administrator