

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

May is one of my favorite months of the year. For so long May signaled the conclusion of another school year and the eventual summer vacation. While the calendar says spring begins in March, we Wisconsinites know differently. Usually, but not always, May sees the blooming flowers and the buds on the trees now open and growing. As we are about halfway through the Easter season, I wonder what buds have begun to flower in your life. Springtime and Easter so beautifully coincide as we notice new life all around us in nature, we are celebrating new life found in Christ. Just think of all the baptisms we have celebrated going back to the Easter Vigil. The smile on these infants's faces and the excitement of their parents knowing that new life has been received. That's what the Sprinkling Rite reminds of as well. We have been given a new birth in the waters of baptism. So, what "bud" did you notice on Easter Sunday? Perhaps there was something for your Lenten journey that stands out like a particular grace or prayer experience. Did you somehow feel like you were closer to the Lord and now you are noticing how that deepened relationship is showing in your life? I pray that the spiritual fruits and flowers continue to grow and blossom.

May, of course, is also the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For us, who call upon her as Patroness, Marian celebrations take on a particular importance. We will be celebrating May Crowning on Mother's Day, and our 4th graders will once again do a May Crowning at the school Mass on May 14th. May Crowning is a beautiful prayer where we recognize Mary's role in our faith. Namely, that she was, and is, the perfect disciple. She is the one who constantly leads the way to her Son, and she now rightly sits as Queen of Heaven.

Finally, May is the month when we celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day. So many fine and important celebrations. I would like to extend an early Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures. In a month where we honor Mother Mary, we also honor our earthly mothers and their many sacrifices.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to all men and women who have served our country to protect the very freedoms that allow us to have such celebrations. To go outside and publicly pray, as we do for the May Crowning, without repercussion is something we take for granted. Thank you to all who have made the ultimate sacrifice. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Pastor