

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I hope this letter finds everyone enjoying these beautiful summer days. This is really my favorite time of year. As a child I have memories of playing and riding my bike with the neighborhood kids from morning until night. The nice summer nights sitting on the back porch and catching fireflies are some of my favorite memories. Now, as an adult, I still greatly enjoy these summer days of sitting outside, barbecue and bonfires. I am also grateful for the slower pace of parish life that summer affords.

However, it is never too slow here at St. Mary Parish. This month we have a couple of important things happening. First, our festival will take place July 12, 13, 14. Please pray for good weather! Last year was a record setting year in terms of revenue and we hope we can do the same this year. While the festival is an important part of our budget planning, it is really the community building that is most important. It is so wonderful to see people from all aspects of our community here to enjoy some good food, fun, and music. This is also an opportunity for people to know who we are as people of faith. The warmth and hospitality that we offer is that of Jesus. We put on aprons of service organizing games and serving food as an act of discipleship. With that, I wish to offer my sincere gratitude to Dave Lownik, Bobby Coleman, and the entire festival committee for their dedication and hard work. The festival is a near year-round endeavor and these fine folks put in many hours to make sure we have such an awesome festival. To everyone who will volunteer I extend my gratitude as well. Without you the festival would not be possible! I look forward to seeing everyone at the festival and enjoying a beer (or two) with you.

July is also the month of Pastoral Council discernment. The Pastoral Council is an important group of parishioners that advise me as Pastor and also take initiative in leading our parish. This is done through the work of the Commissions with outreach, liturgy, pastoral care, and our school. In my three years here, I have been so impressed with those who have served on the Pastoral Council. That really is a credit to the Holy Spirit! If you are wondering how to get involved or feel called to take on a leadership role in our parish, please nominate yourself and go through the discernment process. If you do not feel called I would ask that you discern someone you know who might be a good fit for the Pastoral Council. In any event, I ask for your prayers to the Holy Spirit to bring forth from our community those who are being called to serve on the Pastoral Council.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Pastor