

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

So much begins anew in late August and September. We recently just began the 2025-26 academic year. While the relaxation of summer is wonderful, it is nice to have energy and excitement running through our hallways once again. We are blessed to have the majority of our teachers return this year, but there are a couple of new faces, and we welcome them to the St. Mary family. We also welcome any students who are joining us for the first time. Our theme for the year is “Be the light”, inspired by Matthew 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden”. We know that our world can be pretty dark sometimes. All of us lament various aspects of our society. Of course, we are also quite thankful for the many blessings we have received. These young people who grace our hallways, whom you entrust to us, are not only the future of the Church – they ARE the Church. While they are learning about Jesus they also remind us of the beauty of having a childlike relationship with Him. Their joy and enthusiasm for the faith is light in a, sometimes, dark world. I am so excited to see how the Lord will give us opportunities to be the light of the world this school year!

I also know this is a time of transition for many people. Children going to school for the first time. Parents saying goodbye to their children as they go off to college. Students are entering new grades with new teachers and classmates. So much change! What remains constant, however, is Jesus. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It is in the most stressful moments of life that we need to cling to Him all the more. There might be a loneliness felt by mom or dad without their child around. Perhaps being away at college is causing homesickness. All very normal, but also great opportunities to trust in the presence of the Lord. I do not say that as a cliché but to truly recognize the ways the Lord makes Himself present in our lives. If we are feeling a void for any reason, now is the time to remember the Lord’s promise, “Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Thank you to everyone who makes Catholic Education possible. It is vital for the life of the Church and the world. Thank you, teachers, for the many sacrifices you make – often unnoticed. Thank you, parents, for entrusting your children to us as we celebrate their spiritual growth while providing academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Finally, next month these letters will have a temporary new format as part of our parish Enhanced Offertory Program. We will share important information about how your support makes possible the mission of building God’s Kingdom here at St. Mary Parish Hales Corners. Our hope is that this will be both informative and inspiring, deepening our gratitude for God’s blessings and strengthening our shared commitment to parish and school life.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz