

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

The 2026 St. Mary Parish Festival will soon be upon us! Thank you to everyone who is helping make this event possible—Dave Lownik and Bobby Coleman, our Festival Committee Co-Chairs, the entire Festival Committee, our many volunteers, and all who will attend. As you know, it takes many hands to make this event a success, and months of planning go into its preparation.

The festival is always a wonderful celebration of community, music, fun, and prayer. Once again, we will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass outdoors under the big tent at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 12. How important it is to remember what—or rather, Who—is at the heart of everything we do here: Jesus Christ.

As we look forward to the festival, I invite you to reflect on a question. We may be thinking about what foods we want to try, which games we want to play, or what band we would like to hear. But let us also ask ourselves: How will we encounter Jesus during the festival?

Perhaps we will meet someone who has not been on church property for a long time—or perhaps ever. Maybe we will have the opportunity to share why we love the festival: because we love our parish, and through our parish, we have come to know and love Jesus Christ. For three days, much of our community will gather on our parish grounds. How will we experience the presence of Christ, and how can we help others encounter Him as well?

As we move into the heart of summer, parish life continues to be very active. I would like to humbly ask for your prayers for several important intentions. I believe it is a sign of a healthy relationship when we can ask one another for prayer—not only in general ways, but also for specific needs. Here are my intentions:

Pastoral Council Discernment

At the end of this month, the nomination and discernment process for our Pastoral Council will take place. Please pray that those whom the Holy Spirit is calling to serve will respond generously. Pray also for wisdom and guidance for everyone involved in the nomination process. Year after year, the Holy Spirit has provided our parish with dedicated and faithful disciples to serve on the Council. Please join me in praying that He will do so again.

Director of Discipleship Search

As of the writing of this letter, we are still seeking a Director of Discipleship. We have received several applications and are moving through the interview process. Once again, we ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit—not only for those serving on the Search Committee, but also for the person whom God is calling to this important ministry.

Prayer for Your Pastor

Finally, please pray for me. Pray that I may always remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as I shepherd this parish community. Like all of you, I strive for holiness and face the challenges that come with following Christ faithfully. Your prayers are a tremendous source of strength and encouragement.

Thank you in advance for joining me in praying for these intentions. I am confident that God will abundantly bless our parish through your prayers.

With the assurance of my prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor