

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Have you made plans to come to our parish festival? I hope so! July 7, 8, 9 is a weekend of great food, fun, games, and music. What I love so much about parish festivals is the community aspect. As much as I enjoy a cold beer and roasted corn on the cob (my favorite food at any fair!), it is a real joy to look out and see our broader community together and enjoying themselves. I will once again be blessing the beer at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Don't worry, I think the blessing is retroactive to all of the beer consumed on Friday. Believe it or not, there is a rite for blessing beer and I will be using that again this year. I do look forward to seeing everyone of that weekend!

I also want to offer sincere thanks to the Co-Chairs of our festival, Dave Lownik and Bobby Coleman. These men along with the entire Festival Committee put in many hours for many months to ensure a safe and fun festival. This is truly a labor of love and I am most grateful for their service. I extend that gratitude, also, to our volunteers who have exercised their call of discipleship in service of the parish festival. Thank you for your hours of service and being a wonderful face and disciple of St. Mary Parish!

This month of July is a month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. I wish to update you on the potential of offering the Precious Blood to the faithful at our Masses. As of the time I am writing this letter, we do not have a timeline set. Our staff and Spiritual Life and Worship Committee have begun conversations about what needs to happen to offer the Precious Blood once again. In accord with Archbishop ListECKI's desires and the Eucharistic Revival we want to offer some formation around the Precious Blood. Perhaps this will be a refresher for some, but for others it might be something new. The other component is having enough Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) at all of our Masses. Right now, we do not have enough ministers to offer the Precious Blood. The tentative plan is to have four stations with the Precious Blood and adjust from there if we need to. This means we need sixteen additional ministers each weekend. I ask you to please discern if you are being called to be an EMHC. Maybe you've thought about it but never acted on it. Please consider this ministry not because we need people, but because Jesus might be asking you to do it.

Finally, I wish all of you a very blessed 4th of July. I am thankful for the many people who have sacrificed for our cherished freedoms. I am thankful for the beautiful history of our country and to be an American. Be sure to give thanks to God for the many gifts that have been bestowed on us as we celebrate the holiday. God Bless America!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Parish Administrator