

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a wonderful week we have had and from what people tell me we are very lucky to still be enjoying this wonderful weather. I love to see the fall colors on our trees and I hope you are not too busy to take time to enjoy the beauty of fall.

Once again I would like to say congratulations to all of the First Communion & Reconciliation students as they celebrated their Rite of Enrollment. They will spend the next several months studying and preparing to receive Jesus and joining us at the table of the Lord. What an exciting time for them! Please join me as we continue to pray for them as they travel on their faith journey. It was also nice to resume Children's Liturgy of the Word in a new way.

I am looking forward to pictures of your family pumpkins for the fall festival. Remember we will have 3 winners so send in your pictures soon. If you have questions, please call the either parish office. In the Gospel today, Jesus is being tested once again as he is asked "Which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus is constantly meeting with people who did not mix socially or ritually. Jesus calls us to expand our definition of neighbor and to also expand our relationships with others as well as responsibilities towards others. The fact that Jesus, in the same sentence, says we are to love God and love our neighbor means that one love is not greater than the other.

If we love God, then we will see Him in others and treat them justly and fairly, and everything else will take care of itself. We will not hurt our neighbors but do our best to live in peace with them. Our faith calls us to choose to act like Jesus. Can you imagine how wonderful the world would be if we all did this!

This weekend I am happy to celebrate with you the enrollment ceremony for our students preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. I would ask all of you to pray for them as they study and prepare for the influx of the Holy Spirit.

Also just a reminder on October 31, we will celebrate the commemoration of our deceased at the Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's and the 6:00 p.m. Mass at St. Anthony's. At this time, we will return the crosses of our dearly departed to their families. Both of these celebrations share in the specialness of our faith and I am looking forward to sharing this experience with all of you.

Sunday, November 1st is All Saints Day, a day commemorating all saints in the church, "known and unknown."

God Bless

Rev. Francis Mariadas, SAC