

Dear friends,

August is here and, like it or not, it means the end of vacations and a return to school and extracurricular activities. While parents might be ready for a return to the routine, I'm not so sure about the children. Ready or not, it's time for back to school. We've missed so many of you and look forward to having you back in church with us. What a great blessing you are!

I'd like to share with you some important things happening this month:

Our faith formation classes for the 2025-26 year will begin soon for all grade levels.

The high school programs (FIAT and confirmation classes) kick off on Sunday, 17 August.

Our middle school Anchored in Faith ministry begins on Wednesday, 20 August.

SJE Kids classes for kindergarten through 5th grade start on Sunday, 24 August, on Wednesday, 27 August, or on Thursday, 28 August, as appropriate.

We take this opportunity to thank Mr. Peter Buckoski for his service to our middle and high school youth for the past four years, three of which were served as youth minister for the FIAT program. Mr. Peter is stepping away to focus on his family; however, he will still facilitate the high school Bible study sessions on Wednesday evenings.

Mr. Ronnie Rodriguez will transition from the confirmation program to FIAT.

Ms. Joy Matias-Ramirez will become lead catechist for the confirmation proximate preparation class, and Ms. Jen Hera will continue as lead catechist for the initial preparation class.

We ask that you support these dedicated volunteers in their new roles along with the many other volunteer catechists at all levels who are invaluable to the continued formation of our children and youth.

We pray for all students who are beginning their classes later this month, including our youth who are attending college.

Liturgy of the Word for Children ages 3 to 5 begins on 24 August during the 9 a.m. Mass. This is a program where the children are dismissed before the first reading and led by a catechist to the Bride's Room (located in the narthex). Scripture readings are proclaimed and explained on a level appropriate to the children to foster growth in their understanding and love of God. Children will be returned to the congregation following the homily.

Vocation Prayer Challenge: On 7 September, we will begin our Vocations Prayer Challenge. This will be our opportunity to pray for religious vocations which is vital toward ensuring future generations of Catholics priests, deacons, and religious to celebrate the sacraments and help guide us in our faith. I am asking families to take the vocation chalice home with them to pray for one week. You may pick a Mass of your choosing to receive the chalice, and we ask that you return it to the office on Friday to make it available for the next family to receive it the following weekend. You can sign up using our SignUpGenius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD4AAFAA22AAF4C61-55726073-stjohns>. This link is also on our web page. If you prefer, you may call the office, and we can assist you with the sign-up. Thank you in advance for your support of this very special challenge.

Photo Directory: As part of our Silver Jubilee celebrations, we are creating a parish photo directory. I am grateful to Mike and Kathy Mos for coordinating this huge undertaking. Please sign up in advance for the day among those available that works best for your schedule. Our August appointments are currently 100% full, so we are working on securing more days this month to accommodate more parishioners. Go on line this week to see what is available and to book your appointment. Instructions are in the bulletin and on our website. Please call Mike & Kathy with any questions or if you need to change or cancel an appointment.

In our effort to make worship of our God more meaningful for families with children who struggle with distractions, we will celebrate a sensory-friendly Mass on Sunday, 10 August at 1 p.m. in the parish hall.

On the weekend of August 23/24, Fr. Cyril Imohiosen will be with us to present a Mission Appeal. There will be a second collection to support his efforts.

Let us now look at the St. John's calendar of events for August 2025:

Have an amazing "Welcome Back to School" month of August!

With love,

Fr. John

Let us now look at some of the important events that will take place in the month of August:

Rosary at the Grotto every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

2 August Women's CHRP Retreat Weekend starting at 7 a.m. in the Hall.

2 August First Saturday Devotion, Special Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m.

3 August **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Listen carefully to the voice of the Lord: set your heart on what will last forever.

- Outreach Weekend.

4 August St Mary Teacher Retreat in Rooms 1 & 2.

9 August Alter Server Training at 10 a.m. in the church.

9 August Men's CHRP Retreat Weekend starting at 7 a.m. in the Hall.

10 August **NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

The Lord will come again, perhaps in the midst of the night. Let us be prepared for his return.

14 August Filipino Community Meeting with pot luck at 6 p.m. in the Father Patrick Peyton Room.

15 August Feast of the Solemnity of the assumption of Mary. 3 special masses will be held at 8 a.m., 12:05 p.m., and 7 p.m.

16 August Tamil Mass at 6:15 p.m. in the Church.

17 August **TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Like Christ, we must never grow despondent or abandon the struggle to proclaim and live the truth.

17 August MCC Board Members Retreat at 1 p.m. in the Father Patrick Peyton Room.

17 August High School Fun Day at 3 p.m. in the Hall.

20 August Anchored in Faith Fun Day at 3 p.m. in the Hall.

22 August Queenship of Mary Mass at 6:30 p.m. at the Grotto.

23 August First Lego League Robotic Exhibition at 7 a.m. in the Hall.

23 August Mission Appeal for the 4:30 p.m. Mass.

24 August **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

No one is to be excluded from the kingdom for all peoples are called to proclaim the praises of the Lord and confess his holy name.

24 August Mission Appeal for the 7:15 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. Masses.

24 August FIAT & Confirmation Parent meeting at 3 p.m. in the Hall.

31 August **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Those who conduct their affairs with humility shall be exalted, while those who exalt themselves shall be humbled.

