



MARY MOTHER OF MARTYRS PARISH

CHURCHES OF ST. MARY & ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

Dear Parishioners,

Cardinal Blase Cupich met the last week of September with the presbyteral council and approved the new name for our parish: **Mary, Mother of Martyrs**. They concluded that this name incorporates the devotions and traditions of both former parishes, honoring the Blessed Virgen Mary as a mother for all martyrs including St. Stephen protomartyr (first martyr). It may take some time for us to grow comfortable with our new name while we begin the necessary changes to all our "official" documentation. The titles of our churches will remain as St. Mary's church and St. Stephen's church.

As we get closer to the celebration of All Souls day on Nov 2nd, I invite you to pray for the repose of all our faithful departed and for the families who lately has lost a family member or friend not only in our parish but also due to natural disasters and other circumstances. Here in our parish, we will offer the following English Masses **8 am at St. Mary** and **6 pm at St. Stephen**. The candles that parishioners have been purchasing will be lit on these Masses as well as on the Sunday Masses of Nov 5th and 6th.

Thus far, we have completed the following capital projects: Restoring the fascia of the perimeter of St. Mary's church as well as installing the outside LED lighting for a total of \$ 33,350. The installation of the main school doors of St. Stephen cost \$ 23,290. The coming major projects are the replacement of the roof of St. Stephen's school with an initial estimate of \$ 370,000 and the pavement and lighting of the St. Mary's parking lot with an estimate of \$ 110,000. The timing of these projects requires an air temperature between 50 and 90 degrees. Therefore we hope to tackle them in the spring of next year. The second monthly collection gives us more time to continue collecting the funding. I ask you Joel & Jessica to prayerfully consider donating a monthly amount of \$ 200, \$ 100, \$ 50, or another amount you can commit as a small sacrifice that will benefit all and ensure a lasting presence in our parish buildings. We include with this mailing the monthly envelopes for Nov and Dec 2002. Beginning in 2023, you will receive them in the usual package of the church collection's envelopes.

Another way to support the improvement of our buildings and the yearly parish operation is through yearly fundraising events.

- The Culinaires is an organization that offers five times a year Saturday's dinners which in addition helps us to have time to enjoy our fellowship. The next dinners are on Jan 14 and Apr 22.
- Bingo is also an opportunity to increase our revenue The next dates for Bingo are Nov 12, Jan 7, Feb 11, Apr 15, and June 3. Look at the bulletin or parish website for more details.
- On Nov and Dec we offer tickets at \$10 each for the Christmas raffle with the early bird of \$ 125 on December 8, and a \$ 100 drawing each day from December 15 to 23. The high prices of \$250 and \$1000 are on December 24 and 25. Winner tickets are returned to the drum each time, so you may have multiple chances to win. Call the office to support selling a booklet of 10 tickets and receive an extra free ticket.

At this moment in our Church and in the world, we may also be grieving, troubled, or anxious. Or perhaps, by God's grace, we may feel a sense of hope for a brighter future. Maybe we do not even know what to feel. But together we are gathered as one people, members of Christ's Body, in this our new parish, **Mary Mother of Martyrs**, to pray together, asking the Lord to send us anew the life-giving and transforming power of the Holy Spirit to renew our parish from good to better.

Fraternally yours,


Rev. David Arcila, Pastor