



MARY, MOTHER OF MARTYRS PARISH
ST. MARY & ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parishioner,

As we enter the heart of autumn, we are blessed with meaningful opportunities to come together in **gratitude, celebration, and faith**. This October marks a special milestone in the life of our parish—a time to reflect on our journey together and to give thanks for the people and moments that continue to shape our community.

Included with this letter, you will find a brochure outlining upcoming opportunities to grow in faith and enjoy fellowship with one another. I encourage you to participate and continue nurturing the bonds that make our parish family so special.

Parish Anniversary and Fr. O'Reilly's 40th Jubilee

I warmly invite you to join us to celebrate the third anniversary of our parish and Fr. Gerald O'Reilly's 40th anniversary of priesthood on **Saturday, October 11**. We will gather for the Holy Eucharist at 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary Church. Please note: On this day, there will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Stephen Church and no 6:30 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. Mary Church.

Following the Mass, all are welcome to a festive reception at the St. Zachary Gymnasium from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. -567 W Algonquin Rd, Des Plaines, IL 60018-. As a sign of our unity and fraternity, we invite you to bring a dish to share. Kindly call the parish office to let us know what you plan to bring. **We look forward to celebrating this joyful occasion with you!**

Parish Projects

- The boiler replacement project at St. Mary Church began in February of this year and is scheduled for completion by mid-September. The total cost of the project was \$216,600. This expense was covered by a combination of parish savings and \$95,000 from your generous contributions to the monthly second collection for capital projects. Your support made this essential improvement possible, thank you!
- As part of the project, we successfully separated the boiler systems of St. Mary Church and St. Mary School. This has allowed us to shut down utilities to the school building, resulting in significant savings on utility costs. Currently, there have been no formal offers to purchase the school building.
- Because a portion of the capital projects second collections fund was used to cover the boiler replacement, we have postponed two other planned projects: the replacement of the carpet in the lobby of St. Mary Church, and the application of heavy-duty paint to the floor of Hanley Hall (the gym at St. Stephen). These improvements will be rescheduled once sufficient funds become available.

Keeping you always in my prayers, sincerely in Christ,

Rev. David Arcila, pastor.