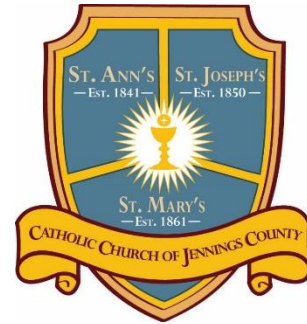


Catholic Church of Jennings County
St. Ann, St. Joseph, St. Mary
629 Clay Street
North Vernon, IN 47265
812-346-3604



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome I received since arriving as your new pastor on July 2nd. I appreciate your kindness and support. Change is difficult for all of us and it has been particularly difficult for me after leaving my family, friends and parish of 14 years. I appreciate your continued patience as we begin the liturgical changes that we have been requested to do.

I would like to update you on a few things happening in our parish communities. First of all, beginning Thursday, August 7th and Friday, August 8th there will be changes in the daily Mass schedule. Thursday Masses will be celebrated at 6:00p.m. at St. Ann's. Friday Masses will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary's. The Friday Masses, including the First Friday's of the month, will be the St. Mary's all-school Masses but open to anyone who would like to attend. My hope is this will allow more people to attend a Friday Mass as it is frequently cancelled at St. Ann's. It will also help us to be able to have regularly scheduled First Friday Devotion Mass to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for all three of the parishes.

As we are now receiving both the Body of Christ and the Precious Blood I am in need of Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for all three of the parishes. Thank you for all those who have volunteered thus far. If you would like to be an Extra-Ordinary Minister of the Eucharist I will need to meet with you to discuss the requirements, send your name into the Archbishop for approval, train you, and then install you in that ministry through a prayer and blessing given to us by the Office of Worship. Please email me at the parish office, frchris@stmarysnv.com, if you feel called to this ministry, and I will set up a time to meet with you!

I am also reorganizing the liturgical music ministry. I would like to have as many of your thoughts and opinions on the future of our music ministry in all

three parishes. Please email me at frchris@stmarysnv.com or call me at the parish office, 812-346-3604, with your thoughts. My goal is to provide music that will encourage full participation and worship that will inspire us to a deeper love of God and one another. This may mean staying with the current "Source and Summit Missal" or using a different option. We have until mid-September to make that decision before ordering new Missals.

Finally, I am working with the St. Mary's Building and Grounds committee and the Archdiocese to schedule the steeple repairs at St. Mary's Church. Hopefully, within the next week or two, we will have those repairs on the calendar. I am also working on purchasing the property at 615 Madison Avenue, which includes the house and the Good Shepherd Adoration Chapel that we are currently renting. This purchase was approved before I arrived by the Finance and Buildings and Grounds Committee. The property will be a great asset to the St. Mary's Campus!

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. I have reinstated the combined Parish Council and will be meeting with them on August 6th. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email or phone.

Peace and Blessings!

Father Chris