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PAX

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

My Dear Family,  
Praise be Jesus Christ!

This past week we had the blessing of celebrating two beautiful feasts: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and our Lady of Sorrows. The Communion for the Mass according to the 1962 Missal was thus on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: *"By the sign of the Cross, deliver us from our enemies, O Thou, our God."* We make the Sign of the Cross so often that we may, at times, forget the power it has to vanquish evil. This spiritual power comes from the fact that Christ, the new Adam, died on the Cross, and on the tree of the Cross He vanquished Satan and his power, and broke the curse the old Adam had brought about to all mankind through a tree. Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we remind the forces of evil that they have no more power over us. We read in the lives of the saints many testimonies about the power of the Sign of the Cross. Let us look at the admonition of St. Ephraim the Syrian: *"With the sign of the living cross, seal all thy doings. Go not forth from the door of thy house till thou hast signed thyself with the cross. Whether in eating or in drinking, whether in sleeping or in waking, whether in thy house or on the road, or again in the season of leisure, neglect not this sign; for there is no guardian like it. It shall be unto thee as a wall, in the forefront of all thy doings. And teach this to thy children, that heedfully they be conformed to it."*

A reminder that our first St. Mary Autumn Gala will be on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Apart from being a night full of fun, we are hoping it will bring good proceeds to be used for any of our pending projects, such as a new sound system, refurbishing our organ, or fixing our bell tower, to name a few. All hands are needed to make this a memorable and successful event. Please help us in spreading the word to friends and family. You can find more information, purchase tickets, and volunteer to help by visiting <https://stmarykazoo.org/fall-gala>. Please feel free to call the parish office at (269) 342-0621 with any questions you may have!

I hope you had an opportunity to admire our new holy water container and our refurbished candlesticks for the side altars and Paschal Candle. You may remember that on Holy Thursday 2021, I introduced a pious custom of the parish providing a gift for the service of the Divine Mysteries as a small token in gratitude for the gift Christ gave us in the institution of the most Holy Eucharist and Holy Priesthood. This year I did not ask for a gift seeing that I was not sure when the candlesticks would be finished and how much it would cost. I am asking for your generosity to help pay for the refurbishing of the candle sticks as a belated Holy Thursday gift for the service of Our Lord's Altar. The total cost to refurbish our candle sticks was \$6,500. Please use the special enveloped marked "Candle Sticks" which can be found on the table next to the offering box to make your donations. If you are using our e-giving, please specify the donation is for Candle Sticks.

Coffee and donuts is back! To be able to offer coffee and donuts after the 8 am and Noon Masses, we need a group of committed volunteers. If you are interested in helping with this service, please contact the parish office at (269) 342-0621 for more information.

I pray you all have a blessed week! Please know of my prayers and paternal love.

In Christ,



Rev. Fr. José Haro