

# A Pastor's Perspective

August 10, 2025 Bulletin



*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

**August 4 – Memorial of St. John Marie Vianney:** This past week, we remembered the Curé d'Ars, the patron saint of parish priests. John Marie Vianney was born in 1786. After much perseverance, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1815 and immediately assigned to Ars, France, where he served until his death in 1859. Through his faith and fidelity, his piety and preaching, and his service and sacrifice (including 16 hours per day in the confessional), St. John Marie Vianney transformed not only his parishioners, but the faithful from all over Europe who came to seek out his spiritual counsel, especially in confession. St. John Vianney truly lived his own words, that “the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.” His heroic yet holy and humble example of priestly life reminds us to pray for all priests and to pray for more vocations to ordained ministry. Our seven seminarians will soon return to their respective seminaries to begin a new year of formation; please keep them in prayer as well.

**August 14 & 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Please join us for this Holy Day of Obligation, as we celebrate the glorious mystery of Mary's assumption in heaven (at the precise moment of her death, God assumed her – body and soul – into her eternal reward). God already had preserved Mary free from the stain of original sin from the first moment of her existence (i.e., the Immaculate Conception); and through God's grace, Mary never committed any actual/personal sin at any time during her life. As a result, in the Assumption, the Lord rewarded her life of fidelity by preserving her from every effect and consequence of sin, including bodily death and corruption.

As part of our commemoration of this mystery, our “At Home Pilgrimage” will conclude with a special Marian Procession at St. Mary Church on Thursday, August 14 at 5:30 pm, just prior to our Vigil Mass in observance of this solemnity (at 6:00 pm). All are welcome to join us in this short procession (less than ½ mile) from the upper level of the school building and into the church that was built and dedicated to her honor. Along the way, we will recite the Holy Rosary and sing some familiar Marian hymns. Upon reaching the church, the statue of our Blessed Mother will be placed in the sanctuary. Children who participate in the procession will be given a flower to place in a vase in front of the statue. Additional Masses in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Assumption will take place on August 15. Please see our website for the schedule of Masses.

**August 16-17 – Second Commitment Weekend:** Next weekend, our parish will conduct our second commitment weekend for the annual Catholic Appeal. Because of your prayers and generosity, our parish has made tremendous strides towards our goal. Together, after 11 weeks, a total of 537 gifts/donations have raised \$232,852.34, which is 86% of our goal. Thank you very much for supporting the many pastoral ministries, educational programs, and outreach efforts that serve tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters throughout the state of Maine. It is my hope that we can bridge the gap and reach 100% of our goal by September 1, Labor Day. Thank you for who you are and all you do as God's faithful people who are the Body of Christ known as St. Paul the Apostle Parish.

*Peace and blessings,  
Msgr. Andrew Dubois*