

September 4, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

Labor Day is here!

Our summer celebrations and get-aways, the beach and the pools are about done. But many different activities begin to fill our days. School is back and our young people are involved in many sports. We are hopeful as we watch the last month of the Phillies regular season, the Union Soccer team strive for the playoffs, and Eagles Football gets started. College, high school and CYO sports all filling our time. Remember that adults and young people must demonstrate good sportsmanship, and behave appropriately. Enjoy all these activities.

On this Labor Day weekend we are grateful for the gifts, talents and abilities we have, and our ability to work and the compensation and benefits we receive. We remember and pray for the unemployed and the underemployed. Please join us Monday morning, Labor Day, for 9:00 am Mass.

A few "thank you's" and reminders. I thank you for the \$2,279 contributed to the Missionary Cooperative Appeal in July. That check has been sent to the Office for the Propagation of the Faith. We also received an update on the Catholic Charities Appeal at the half way point of the annual Appeal. We have contributed \$58,809 (which is 46% of our goal). I thank those who have responded and supported the Catholic Charities Appeal, and encourage those who have not to contribute whatever you can in the coming weeks.

This week Father Wackerman and I will begin Parish Visitation and Block Collection on the Cheltenham side of the Parish. We will visit between 2:00 and 5:00 pm as listed in the bulletin (page 6) and the letter you received. We depend on this Stewardship Collection very much, and encourage your generosity. Everyone's bills have gone up in the past six months, and the same is true for the parish and school. Please consider \$250 for this annual Appeal, or whatever you can give in a sacrificial way.

I also hope you've noticed the progress on our two outdoor projects. The play area for the preschool program and the Mary Garden are coming along very nicely.

Finally -- WELCOME BACK to our school community. St. Luke Catholic School will open this week with close to 300 students in pre K-3 through 8th grade. Thank you to the parents who choose St. Luke School, and the sacrifices made to send your children. We welcome and thank our Principal, Mr. Mike Lawlor, our teachers and staff for your commitment to Catholic education. Have a GREAT year everyone.

Most of the summer you've had short messages from me, but now the "action" gets started again. Thank you for all you do and your love and support of St. Luke's. Have a great holiday weekend. Be assured of my continued prayers, as I depend on yours.

St. Luke, pray for us.

Father Joe Brandt