



United in Faith and Community

Dear Parishioner,

For nearly 75 years, St. Rita has been a shining example of what it means to express the eternal life that we have been given through Jesus Christ “*who is our Passover and our lasting peace*” (Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II). We have the proud reputation of being a welcoming and loving family of faith. Over the last couple of years, we have experienced a noticeable growth in faith and vitality.

It is common for parishioners and visitors to approach me after a Mass, a funeral, or other events to share how moved and uplifted they are by the joy, hospitality, care, and devotion they have experienced here at St. Rita.

For example, Larry is on a fixed income and has been able to meet new friends at the free weekly meals that are held at St. Rita and at other churches around town. Kerri received meals through the Assisi ministry for several weeks while she nursed her husband back to health after a cancer scare. Margaret and Benjamin found their understanding of the Eucharist changed through what they learned during a Bible Study and because of their encounter with Jesus during a Sunday Mass.

These are just some examples. We want you to know that we are also here for you, Call upon us when you need a home-cooked meal after the birth of a child or when someone is sick. Ask for someone visit your house or nursing home to bring communion to an elderly family member. Get support after the death of a loved one, for as long as you need it. You will always receive a warm greeting at the door, no matter how long it’s been since we’ve seen you, and there are free donuts after Mass the 3rd Sunday of each month! We believe that the connections you form at St. Rita last a lifetime.

I want to introduce you to “**United in Faith and Community**”, the vision we have for growing our parish and building a strong community of faith. Through United in Faith and Community, we hope to increase Mass attendance, ministry participation, and regular financial support.

How has St. Rita Grown?

- ❖ *Enrollment in St. Rita School is up 36%, bringing us to 219 students for the 2023-24 school year.*
- ❖ *Bonds between the parish and school faith communities are growing and bearing great fruit.*
- ❖ *Our talented music ministry adds joy and vibrancy to our Masses.*
- ❖ *We are embracing a synodal model of parish life: listening to each other, responding to needs, and supporting the efforts that the Holy Spirit is encouraging.*
- ❖ *We have started 5 new ministries in the past 5 years.*
- ❖ *This past year, we have celebrated 46 baptisms, 60 First Communions, and have welcomed 6 adults into the Church.*
- ❖ *We are one of six churches that work together to provide the Webster Community with a free meal every week.*

The single most important contribution you can make to our parish and school community is to regularly participate in Mass. Your presence adds to the vitality of our worship and what you receive from the Eucharist is beyond price. The presence of Jesus that you experience in the Eucharist at Mass is the life-giving taste of what you will experience when you share fully in His eternal life in heaven.

Help us also to build our community of faith. Please invite your families, friends, and neighbors to join us at St. Rita for Mass, for fellowship, for spiritual support, for education (adult and youth) and for service. We believe engaging young people and families is key to our long-term success. Our school, faith formation and sacrament programs along with our many fellowship events are all ways to support families on their Christian journey.

Any financial support you can provide to support St. Rita and our ministries is greatly appreciated. It will not surprise you that St. Rita struggles with the same stresses caused by inflation and the events of the past few years as you are familiar with in your home and family. We do have to keep the lights on, pay our employees and provide benefits, replace things as they break and rust, and support all of our wonderful ministries.

I am asking you and all our parishioners to positively, prayerfully, and generously respond to our need to increase our regular weekly collections. Please fill out the enclosed response card and return it by mail, in the collection basket or slot at church, or enter your response on our website by May 8, 2024. If you have not already, please consider setting up online payments through our electronic giving vendor, Vanco.

As we grow more United in Faith and Community, imagine the amazing things we will accomplish! As always, I am so grateful for the graciousness of St. Rita's parishioners.

May the Spirit who is already at work in St. Rita continue to reshape and renew our amazing parish and all its families and households. We have a great parish. Let's strive, by the grace of God, to be an excellent one!

Thank you in advance for your generosity in your presence and contributions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



UNITED
IN FAITH
+ COMMUNITY