

students, and even stuck around for Bingo. All this, with the good weather to boot, helped make this an enjoyable week.

Hopefully spring cleaning has been a part of your life. It's a very good time of year for cleaning and organizing. Both at my parents and here at Saint Mary's I was able to get behind a chain saw and cut wood. Then I was able to get in a skid loader and haul brush around. I imagine some of you have seen the pile over by the new shed at Saint Mary's. The size of the pile is similar to what the good people in Spring Hill have collected on their parish grounds. Even still, there is so much more to go. I expect that only about 65% of the dead brush in our property line here at Saint Mary's has been cleared from the woods, and we have not even taken a good look at the woods over by the Saint Patrick's Cemetery.

It was Kenny Felderwerd (of happy memory) who would say, "You work hard for the things you want, and work even harder to take of it." I could only hope that sort of ethic is lived out each day in each of our lives; in our responsibilities and relationships. That we try not to take for granted, even for a moment, the blessings we share in, and we find ways to make it even better.

What needs work in your life? Your relationships? This can be tricky because it requires that we call something a problem if it is one. Maybe it's a habit. Maybe it's an attitude. But the hope is that we can

take that which is bad and exchange it for what is good, and take what is good and make it better. And heck, while we are at it, let's make the better, best. By the grace of God, this sort of improvement is possible in our lives.

Even still, know that even our solutions bring their own problems. Sure, you get to see your grandchildren's sports events, but now you are traveling every single weekday. Or, you have a tool to do something you never could before, but now that means you no longer have an excuse not to get it done. Or, more likely, you are more tired as you carry out that work.

There are going to be problems in our life, no matter what. We simply ask what kind of "problems" we are willing to live with. However, hard work should never be called a problem. It has been said, "Work smarter, not harder." I say, do both.

Lastly, it was already announced on the Church of Saint Mary Facebook page but I wanted to mention it here, also. After careful consideration by the Building, Grounds and Maintenance Committee at the Church of Saint Mary, and with the formal approval of the Parish Finance Council and myself the decision was made to make available for sale the former parish rectory and the adjoining lots.

FATHER MITCHELL'S PASTORAL BULLETIN

Sunday, May 10, 2026

To the parishioners of Saint Andrew's, Greenwald,
Saint John the Baptist's, Meire Grove, Saint Mary's, Melrose &
Saint Michael's, Spring Hill, of the One In Faith Area Catholic Community

The former rectory remains one of the most stately houses in town. As a former resident, I felt privileged to live there and, as pastor, have considered it a solemn privilege and responsibility to ensure it received due care and maintenance.

Mindful of this, with no more foreseeable use to the parish, it has been decided to make these properties available for other good purposes. If you are a parishioner of Saint Mary's, please call our parish office or reach out to me directly if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Once more, a blessed and Happy Mother's Day!

Mary, mother of Jesus and us all, pray for us.

In Christ,

Father Mitchell Bechtold

Greetings.

A blessed and happy Mother's Day to all mothers in our community. And a blessed and happy Mother's Day to you ladies who provide motherly guidance and example to us who need it ... people like me. I have often joked, "A man will never know how many mothers he can have until he is ordained." Obviously kidding, but still we give thanks for your loving witness and the maternal care you show.

This week was truly blessed. It began with the celebration of two more holy Masses where dozens of students received Holy Communion for their very first time. It continued as we welcomed Bishop Patrick Neary to the Church of Saint Mary to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for 53 of our sons and daughters. And it was decorated once more with a visit by Bishop Patrick to the Church of Saint Andrew in Greenwald, where he joined in honoring our grandparents for grandparent's day, celebrated Mass with our SJSA