

September 1, 2019

**From Fr. Jim . . .**

**Labor Day:** Labor Day is the unofficial end to summer. Many schools are back in session and many more will be back in session soon. Most people have taken their vacations and the normal lull in activity and meetings etc. is no more. The spectacular fireworks display from the Ohio River is not just in celebration of the national holiday of Labor Day but it has implications of bringing summer to a glorious close.

As more teachers go back to work at this time, and normal workloads increase and as many people are still looking for work and the economy hungers for more job opportunities, this is a good time to celebrate Labor Day and to allow it to be a focus of our praying. We want to pray in thanksgiving for the opportunity to work and with our work, to help make the world a better place to live. We want to pray for the gift of being able to share in God's creative energies with the work that we are capable of doing. We want to accept God's invitation to use our labor to also build the kingdom of God on earth. We ask for the strength and the courage and the generosity to please not only our bosses with our work but also God.

We give thanks for the privilege to work and for all the benefits that a worker deserves and needs – safe and healthy environment; right to form unions, vacation time, health benefits, just wage and salary, balanced work schedule and benefits for overtime and more. We pray for those who are out of work and who are looking for work. We pray for our economy and for our leaders and government who are working hard to solve our deficit. We pray for both union and non-union labor. For what else about our work and the work of our cities, neighborhoods, families, and church do want to pray as we celebrate this great holiday?

Bless the work of our hands, O Lord. Bless the work of our hands. May all that we do be pleasing and honorable in your sight. Amen. Alleluia! Happy Labor Day, everyone!

**Vacation:** My niece is getting married Sunday, September 1, in Cleveland. I am at the wedding and will be taking this week off from work to spend some time with my family. I will return on Friday, September 6. Please welcome Fr. Rufino and Fr. Jason Williams. Fr. Rufino will preside at the Sunday, 10:30am Mass and Fr. Williams will preside at the Saturday 6pm Mass. I give my deepest gratitude to them for helping us and praying the weekend liturgies with us. Please give them your most generous hospitality and active participation that always makes me miss being with you and that always characterizes our Sunday best. Pray well everyone and many blessings.

