



November 6, 2017

Dear Residents:

It is hard not to be disheartened by the tragic events that seem to keep happening in our world today. The many episodes of violence are just shocking, especially the shooting in Las Vegas last month that killed 58 people, injured 546 and indirectly affected thousands more. The thought that one person can cause so much pain to so many innocent people is absolutely horrifying.

However, as I watched the coverage on TV in the days that followed the tragedy, it was truly amazing how many people were willing to sacrifice their own safety to help others in need. It was very inspiring to hear of so many people willing to help complete strangers as the terrifying event was happening all around them. This just reaffirms that there are more good people than bad and that good does triumph over evil. Please keep all those affected by this and other horrible tragedies in your thoughts and prayers.

If you need something to lift your spirits and help you feel better about the future of our world (or at the very least, the future of our area), I would encourage you to attend one of the children's masses at St. Mary's Church and witness the beauty and innocence of the children. Listening to them sing, especially the children's choir, is an uplifting experience that helps us to truly believe that good will triumph over evil.

I realize that not all of our citizens are catholic, but all are invited to attend mass anytime. If you need a lift and can find the time in your schedule, attending one of these children's masses might just give you the boost you are looking for. Generally, the full student body of St. Mary's School attend mass at 8:15 a.m. on Fridays. Thank you to St. Mary's Parish and School for doing such a wonderful job of offering spiritual guidance to our community and providing many with an anchor of hope in what can often be a very confusing world.

Hopefully many of you were able to attend the St. Mary's Craft Show held on November 5th. In addition to bringing many of our local people together, this event also brings many non-residents into the Village. Many of these folks end up visiting our local businesses in addition to the Craft Show, which is an added benefit to the Village. Thank you to all the people who work so hard to make this event such a success.

Good luck to all the deer hunters out there. May you have a successful, and more importantly safe, hunting season.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia