



Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

Dear Parishioners and All,

**On behalf of all the clergy of St. Andrew Parish, I wish each and every one of you a most blessed and happy Easter!** This is the greatest feast day of the church year and of the Christian faith, that great feast celebrating our Savior's victory over sin and death. "Christ the Lord is risen on high, now he lives no more to die!" How I wish I could celebrate Easter Mass with all of you gathered in church, singing the praises of the Risen Christ, and chanting our Easter Alleluias! How I wish I could greet you in person and wish you a Happy Easter as I meet you coming to St. Andrew's Church for Easter services. I know that you are missing being able to gather for Mass at St. Andrew Parish with your fellow parishioners. You are missing the opportunity to partake of the Lord's Body and Blood in Holy Communion. You are also missing being part of a worshipping community in offering the Sacrifice of Praise to God the Father, through, with and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Please know that I very much miss all of you, and I long for the day, which will surely come when we will once again be united in prayer around the altar of St. Andrew Church.

This Easter, while we are still under the "stay at home" order for who knows how much longer, we may feel that, although Christ is risen from the dead, we ourselves are still locked in our "tombs." **Although we celebrate Christ's victory this Easter Day, we may still feel discouraged because the eventual victory over the Coronavirus still seems far off. I encourage you to be patient, be hopeful, and be safe. Meanwhile, on this Easter feast, I urge you to celebrate the Lord's resurrection by renewing your baptismal promises at home, just like you would have done at Easter Mass.** This is a most fitting way to celebrate Easter because, in baptism, we died with Christ and rose to new life with him as well. There is a formula you may follow to renew your baptismal promises included in today's bulletin.

**Next weekend, April 18-19, is the weekend designated to implement the new Sunday Mass Schedule at St. Andrew.** Since public masses are not being held, this may seem unimportant now. However, the priests will be offering masses privately according to the new schedule, and those wishing to unite spiritually with a particular mass will want to be aware. When at last we are able to have public masses again – whenever that may be – we do plan to follow the new Sunday schedule.

**I want to ask all of you parishioners to please keep me informed about your health and well-being, and if you are experiencing any needs that I can possibly help you with.** I appreciate the messages I have received from some of you letting me know how things are going for you during this most unusual time. I want all of you to know that you can call, text or email me at any time, just to let me know how you are getting along, and especially if you are in need of some encouragement or prayer.

**Finally, thanks to all of you for your continuing support of St. Andrew Parish during these difficult times.** Your heroic sacrifices are most appreciated. Although our offertory income is reduced, many of you are stepping forward to help us close the gap, despite the economic circumstances. Thank You! Although we are physically separated and far apart on this Easter feast, please know that we are spiritually united with one another in the communion of the Church, the Body of Christ. **May God bless you all, and Happy Easter!**

Your Pastor,  
Msgr. Stephan Moloney