

MESSAGE FROM THE LAP TOP

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER!

Sunday Greetings Family of HNOJ:

This weekend, our great nation takes time to remember for the 244th time the monumental moment there in Philadelphia, PA via which the gathered representatives of the 13 original colonies completed their great period of debate and discussion and ratified the Declaration Of Independence that would be sent to King George of England that would lead to the Revolution for Independence and the beginnings of the nation that we call home. In contrast, these past months have been anything but chaotic as we see actions taking place that call into question the very fabric of this nation that our fore-bearers willingly put their lives on the line for. The recent actions that have happened all across the country has greatly disturbed the national peace and calm that we were feeling before this whole virus issue began the ball rolling. No one knows when we will be able to return to some form of “normal” that will allow for a “distance free” approach to life. Hand sanitizers, temperature checks, PPE’s and more may be a permanent part to life from here forward. It just all goes to demonstrate that we really are not in control of everything that happens in life.

But, there is one to whom we can turn to who has all things in His care and has demonstrated His complete reliance upon our faith and trust in His approach to ruling life for all of us. Our Old Testament reading from Zechariah that we have listened to places us at a time in the history of ancient Israel where the nation has come out of exile and are questioning their place as a nation and who shall be ruling over them. The image that the prophet places before the people is totally radical from the perceived idea of a ruler, a king coming forth to take charge. When we think of a king, we have images of vast armies, numerous steeds of horses outfitted in regal battle attire ready to throw around its muscle to strike fear in the forces that would seek to oppose them. The image of the ruler coming unto the people ride on a donkey, having full authority over the setting without the vast armies but being the Lord of Hosts allows us to think of Jesus and the role that He now has in leading us into the Kingdom of His Father.

We are exposed to so much information today that presents the whole world to us in the sound bites that those presenting the news “want” us to “hear”. Why not just take today’s accounts of scripture to heart and meditate upon your life through their message that is our saving **TRUTH**. Take whatever scriptural aid you use to reflect upon God’s Holy Word and find a quiet place to let His presence wash over you as I most certainly will do.

This is my traditional period of time when I would be heading off to the Heartland to visit my sister and very dear friends. Not this year. Like you, the pandemic has thrown a monkey wrench into any travel. This year, I will be experiencing a “**staycation**” that will have me with you for the weekend Masses but looking to making local trips to visit with friends from past parish assignments whom I have not been able to visit for a long time. **Thus, there will be no weekday Masses offered Monday through Friday.** I will be able to handle funerals and emergencies that would crop up in this time. **Confessions will be available just on Saturday afternoons during this month and will pick up the Wednesday evening session with August once again.**

Quick word in support of this year’s Annual Cardinal’s Appeal. We are within reach of our \$23,000.00 goal. 68 families have pledged roughly \$21,465.00. I know these are difficult times. All I can do is encourage your support when the mailing comes. Thank you to the 68; can you add your family to this number this week?

That is all for now. **GO FORTH AND ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. MANY BLESSINGS FOR THE WEEK!!!!**

Fr. Mike