

Letter from Fr. Marc

In the Gospel of John, chapter 20, the early disciples securely locked themselves away to be protected from an impending threat to their well-being. The impending threat to the early disciples was the possible harm which could be caused by enemies of Jesus. Nevertheless, while securely locked away, the risen Lord Jesus came and stood among them and said "Peace be with you." The gospel passage teaches us, while the early disciples were moved to take the action of protecting themselves from an impending threat to their well-being; a gift was given to them by the risen Lord Jesus, with the purpose of transforming their fear into the gift of divine and enduring peace.

As we have been learning day by day for the past several weeks, a threat to our good health looms large to harm us, especially the most vulnerable. Most recently, we have been advised to securely lock ourselves away to be protected against an enemy named the Human Coronavirus. Wisely and prudently, those who have our trust as civil and ecclesiastical authorities instructed we do all humanly possible to prevent the aforementioned enemy from doing harm to us. There have been designated times when we can be away from our homes. And, there have been designated times when we must return and remain home. We should be thankful to the said authorities for all they are doing during this time of hardship.

However, let us not forget, as it was for the early disciples, it is for us. The necessity to lock ourselves away from an impending threat to our well-being is also our experience now. The enemy looms outside of our doors. During the times when we must remain at home, seeking protection from the present "enemy," may it not be forgotten; the Lord Jesus will not be separated from us. He is present to transform our fear into the gift of divine and enduring peace, while there.

And, when the designated time for us to be away comes each day, seek Him, even for a few minutes, at our Parish Church. The doors are open all day for private prayer. In addition, online, at our website, there is information about Holy Hours before our Eucharistic Lord, at St James Church.

May God bless us.

St. James of the Marches, pray for us.

Fr. Marc
Pastor