

23 March 2020

A Word from your Pastor:

### The Kindness of Strangers and Parishioners

Today's second reading (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent) exhorts us to "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light".

We are surely surrounded right now by much darkness - in our world, country, communities, families and our own hearts. And yet, through it all, shines the brightness of Jesus Christ and He, the Good Shepherd of the Responsorial Psalm today, wishes to enfold all of us as He reminds us "Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil for you are at my side."

So, let us fear no evil in these days of uncertainty. Life will go on and only "goodness and kindness will follow us." Yes, our church is empty now but still filled with the Real Presence of Jesus. Our doors must be locked but the doors to the Lord's heart remain wide open.

Let us all still be the Church of St. Edward the Confessor. Let us infect our narrowed world with God's love and care. That was brought home to me today, (Sunday) by the actions and kindness of strangers and parishioners – the Village Service Dept, two parishioners, and a stranger from down the street cut up and removed much of the large tree that fell onto our property by the church entry. And then a parishioner ferried six Denison students – at varying times – to the airport and home. Another delivered turkey and dressing to my door. Who can pass that up?

As I dried off the dishes in the dishwasher, I noticed I was using a cloth with the outline of our fair village on it - the gift of a parishioner who has since moved to South Carolina from here. All are examples of the goodness alive within us and around us. I hate that we have to be separated for the time being, but we will be back together around the Lord's table.

In the meantime, we are connected by our parish website and Flocknote. Please use them.

And pray, too, for our RCIA candidate, Andrew Zellers, from the Akron area, who will be entering the church, by hook or crook, in the weeks ahead. Pray too, for the three couples planning to marry soon under much changed conditions. Pray for our sick and suffering, those alone and those living in fear and remember always: "Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord."

God bless,

Msgr. Paul Enke

P.S. 1 – I will be offering private Masses at home for those scheduled Mass intentions.

P.S. 2 – I imagine that the St. Vincent Haven could use your financial assistance they feed additional meals to clients. Help now! Send your help or call John Paul Munhall at 614-649-9782 if you have any questions:

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