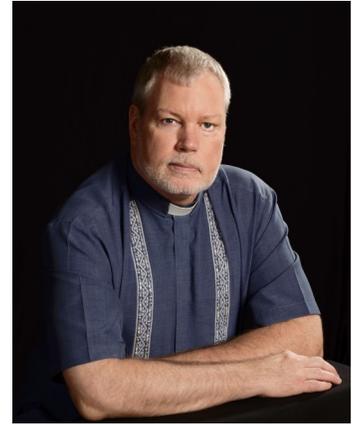




Pastor's Page



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we move further into the Easter season and continue our celebration of the Paschal Mysteries, I want to wish all of you the continued blessings of this holy and sacred season. While challenges persist and care must continue to be taken, we nonetheless remain confident that hope is increasing and that improvements are approaching. The brighter, warmer and more colorful days seem to signal a turn toward the positive, and we continue to pray that the new life that Easter proclaims will bring us new joy that all can partake of.

In the midst of all this, I want to share with you some news about another medical procedure I must soon undergo. As you know, almost 25 years ago I underwent some surgery to remove a benign brain tumor growing around my left acoustic nerve. Unfortunately, the facial nerve on my left side was damaged in this surgery, and since then I have suffered complete paralysis on the left side of my face. Since then, due to the passage of time, and to the lack of muscle movement in certain areas of my face, the muscles have begun to atrophy. This atrophying has begun to cause some problems in regard to the socket around my left eye. The eyelid no longer closes tightly, and the lower eyelid has begun to droop and sag, leaving the eyeball ever more prone to dryness and susceptible to wind, dust and other irritants. Left untreated, this situation will almost certainly lead to permanent damage to my left eye, and to significant loss of vision.

To remedy this situation, I must undergo what is called an “eye tuck”, wherein the surgeon will cut a small triangular-shaped piece of skin from the outer corner of my lower left eyelid, and then suture the eyelid so that it is better able to protect the lower portion of my left eyeball. This procedure is scheduled for Friday, May 7th, in Bellevue, and will require about two weeks of recuperation and healing before I am able to return to my normal duties.

The surgeon said that the initial effects of the procedure will make it look like I have been in a barfight. I will have to wear an eyepatch for two or three weeks, or until the swelling and the bruising have largely faded, but with the passage of time these effects will diminish and disappear. I will probably be out of action for the 6th and 7th Sundays of Easter—May 9th and 16th—but hope to be back in action for Pentecost on May 23rd. As a clearer picture emerges, I will make sure that folks are kept informed.

I thank you for your prayers, and for your kind wishes. I am in good hands and am confident that the results will bring me benefits and improvements.

Easter blessings to all,

Fr. Kevin