

Dear Parishioners,

As we gather together remotely this Easter Sunday, **everything** is different and yet **everything** is the same. The difference we live through these days is the lockdown and the many who live in fear and isolation. Let us reach out to all those who are elderly and alone so they feel our love through a phone call, a text or an email. We are so grateful to the many who risk their lives to provide medical care and essential services including supermarket availability to us all.

The Resurrection of Christ remains joyful. Indeed, just as joyful for us as it was on that first Easter Sunday morning. During these past weeks of Lent, we have walked Christ's suffering in self-sacrificing and denial. The apostles and disciples in the locked room were afraid and yet when Mary of Magdalene met with the risen Jesus at the tomb, their world changed. Their fear faded and the joy of the risen Christ propelled them to live strong Catholic lives and profess the gospel by word, deed and action. Let us on this Easter Sunday and the days ahead, be filled with the same courage, hope and joy as the early disciples and bring others to faith through our love for God.

I keep our RCIA candidates in prayer during these days and look forward to celebrating the sacrament with them as soon as it is safe to do so. A big thank-you to everybody who has so generously tithed online and helped us with the weekly offering and with the Easter gifts! A big thanks to the many who mailed or brought in envelopes so that we can continue to pay our staff and keep our parish afloat. We are indeed blessed by God in the many people, old and young, who make up the parish of St. Luke and empower us to minister to those who are young and old, sick and healthy. I take this opportunity to thank all in leadership in our parish, Deacon Ray with Leslie's support, who has been my right hand these past weeks and is assisting me at all of the Easter liturgies, Deacon Mike and MaryAnn, Deacon Kevin, Deacon Art and Nancy who are all praying with us from a distance. Big thanks to Maureen, Nina, Jody and Mike, Jodi, Tom, Ann-Marie, Kathe and our musicians, Jeannie and our pre-K staff. How blessed I am to have had Fr. Alex with me these past weeks, we have truly enjoyed celebrating our masses with you virtually and our chats from the rectory. Fr. Alex celebrates his first Easter as a priest. How proud I am of him and how glad I am of his priestly support and friendship during these difficult days.

Be assured my dear parishioners of my love and prayers for each one of you and with a joyful heart, I wish you a Blessed and Holy Easter season!

Fr. Owen