

St. Joseph & St. Boniface Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor

Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates

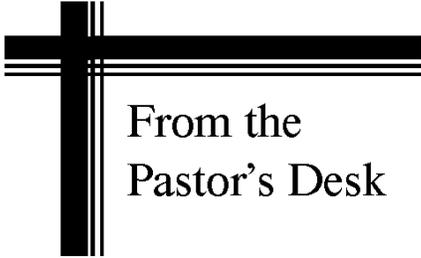
Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock

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www.stjosephatkinson.org

www.holtboydcatholic.org



From the Pastor's Desk

Happy Easter! It certainly was a different kind of Holy Week and Easter this year. All the same it is Easter and Jesus Christ is RISEN! Alleluia!

The challenges during this time of pandemic are many. There are physical, financial and mental challenges that all of us have to face. Being forced to separate ourselves from our normal routines and our regular interactions with people at work, home, and in the community can take its toll. The struggles are real. But we can and will get through this, not by anything we can do but by what God can, will and has already

done for us.

The scriptural phrase, "Be not afraid." was a favorite of Pope St. John Paul II's throughout his pontificate. Those words appear in scripture 365 times. I know that some of our parishioners are very much afraid right now. Please, make those words a part of your prayer as you find fear rising at your core. Turn it over to God, and trust that he will take it from you as often as you need to offer it.

Get out of the house, soak up some sun, take a walk around the block, go for a drive (remember to maintain the six foot and ten-person rule), enjoy the day, wash your hands, and be safe. But do not fear, God is with us always.

He is risen, he is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On this the Second Sunday of Easter also known in recent times as Divine Mercy Sunday, the church gives us the only gospel reading that corresponds to the week after Easter, namely the story of "Doubting Thomas" [John 20:19-31].

On the evening of Easter Sunday, Jesus makes his appearance to the disciples, though Thomas is absent. It is only one week later when Jesus appears again. During this intervening week, we might wonder what the other disciples said to Thomas, and we might wonder at Thomas's obstinacy in the face of their witness. Not only had Thomas experienced Jesus throughout his earthly ministry, but Thomas had the eyewitness testimony of his fellow disciples, his friends. Still, his lack of belief persisted. Only a personal experience of the risen Christ would melt away his doubt and unbelief. Such is a model of how individuals come to faith. Sometimes, like Thomas, despite all the evidence, testimony, and enthusiasm of believers, faith will never take root unless one **personally encounters** the risen Christ. Still, Jesus utters a beatitude that is meant for us, the reader: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

The gospel passage, and gospel itself, ends with an eloquent note from the author stating explicitly the aim of the work: "that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." With such an obvious conclusion, it does seem odd to find another chapter that begins with the disciples fishing.

The conclusion of today's story is a straightforward admission of the point of the gospel: belief in Jesus and life in his name. Twenty centuries later, and with our own reading of these very same words, it's safe to say the evangelist succeeded in his aim.

Finally, Jesus says at least twice that he brings peace. Such repetition is deliberate. The resurrection of Jesus gives us, his followers, peace. We are no longer subject to the buffeting winds of turmoil, drama, challenge, or turbulence. We may rest assured in the peace of Christ, knowing that there is life eternal. God is faithful. Violence, lawlessness, and collusion and pandemics will not last. Instead, peace, love, friendship, and self-gift are eternal. The resurrection of Jesus and his lasting presence among his disciples are all the proof we need. Once we experience him for ourselves, there is no longer room for doubt.

After Jesus' death, the disciples were bewildered. Even Mary of Magdalen, the first to find the empty tomb, did not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Peter, too, upon seeing the empty tomb did not believe. As we heard in last week's gospel, only the unnamed Beloved Disciple believed without seeing. And in this weekend's reading we hear how later that same evening on Easter, the remaining disciples (except Thomas) also came to believe upon seeing Jesus. Thomas stands in for all the second, third, and subsequent generations of Christians who know that Jesus suffered and died on a cross but did not experience the risen Christ in the way that the first disciples did. Even Thomas himself only believes upon seeing Jesus, which is when Jesus utters the beatitude meant for us.

We experience the suffering and death of Jesus when we encounter those tragedies in our own lives. We experience the resurrection of Jesus, too, when we are open to those encounters. Jesus, the source of life, continues to give life to his followers. On this Second Sunday of Easter, let us be aware of the occasions we have to experience not only the suffering and death of Jesus, but most especially his life and exaltation. In that way we live the paschal mystery more fully.

Ad Multos Annos!
Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

St. Boniface Prayer List...Kirstine Chvala, Lee Ann Maher, Margaret Smolik, Garrett Scholz, Kate Steinhauser, Blakely Bouska, John Hladky, Coralie Thomas, Isaac Schultie, Dick Steinbach, & Kathryn Shald.

April 12, 2020.....Collection-----St. Boniface

Envelopes	\$616.00
Easter	<u>164.00</u>
	\$780.00

April 5, 2020

Online Giving	\$105.00
TOTAL	885.00

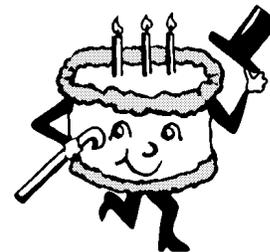
The HARVEST IS GREAT, LABORERS ARE FEW----Taking the vocation crucifix this week—Pat & Sandy Kennedy. The week of April 26—Kelly Jelinek Family.



We Pray With Special Concern For All Who Are Ill: Emma Lou Gunther, Darrin Wedige, Gianna Slaymaker, Lois Tunender, Nathan Boyle, Marilyn Morrison, Miranda iJames, Garrett Scholz, Blakely Bouska, John Gilg, Phil Fritz, John Mathis, Jerry Schaaf, Michelle Bulau, & Phil Schmaderer, Rob Klinetobe.

EVENTS

- Stay home and pray, pray, pray...then pray some more!
- Sat., April 25—*Birthday Blessings* to Father James Weeder!
Thank you for the gift of consecrated life that you so unselfishly give to the parishioners of Western Holt & Boyd Counties. We wish you the ‘best day ever’. May God continue to bless you, Father!



THE LORD'S PORTION---04.17.20-----St. Joseph's

Adult envelopes (11)	1,148.00
Online Giving (6)	275.54
Easter (10)	1,195.00
Energy (1)	1,000.00
Insurance (1)	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	3,668.54

Gratitude to all who are remembering their parish with an offering. God bless you for your sacrifices!

