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St. John Vianney Catholic Church

*"I will show you the way to heaven."
– St. John Vianney*



April 15, 2020

SJV Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! There is a lot of news being presented today and people are constantly hearing about the coronavirus. However, the resurrection of Christ means so much more for humanity. This is the news that we should be sharing if we seek the eternal good of each other. Don't forget to pray and reflect upon the value and meaning of Christ's resurrection in your own life.

One of the unfortunate things that I miss doing this Easter Season is seeing all of you in person and recalling your own baptism. I especially miss the chance to dowse...I mean sprinkle everyone with Holy Water. The Easter Season causes us to remember the sacraments of initiation that we have received and the graces associated with those sacraments. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) states in paragraph 1275:

Baptism indeed is the seal of eternal life. The faithful Christian who has "kept the seal" until the end, remaining faithful to the demands of his Baptism, will be able to depart this life "marked with the sign of faith," with his baptismal faith, in expectation of the blessed vision of God - the consummation of faith - and in the hope of resurrection.

What a great hope we have that surpasses the concerns of this world. Thinking of eternal life and following Jesus to paradise is a great comfort when anxieties of this world approach. This world and its concerns are only temporary. Please don't forget the great promise that God has given to those who are faithful to Him. Keep up the faith my friends!

This coming Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday and an invitation to be more aware of God's immense mercy. Remember that you can never earn mercy by its mere definition as it is an undeserved gift. How good God is to give us such a precious gift as sharing in His life. Through baptism we have become His adopted children! Just a reminder that there is holy water in front of the doors to the church building for you. This is a wonderful sacramental to assist with your reception of grace. The Catechism states that sacramentals prepare us to receive grace and to cooperate with it (CCC 1670). If you find yourself wanting some help in receiving graces, especially patience with family members, come by and get some holy water. You only need to bring your own container to collect the holy water. It's FREE!

Currently there are no new directives from Bishop Doherty. His March 27 letter is the latest update which can be read at <https://www.dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>. Just a reminder that Bishop Doherty has mandated the suspension of all public celebrations of the Mass, other liturgical services and gatherings of the faithful effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 until further notice. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass from March 13, 2020 continues until further notice. It is not a permanent dispensation.

Please know that I am praying for you that you may know of the great peace that comes from Jesus! St. John Vianney...pray for us!

In Christ,
Fr. Tony Rowland