

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The Easter Story of Jesus'



Resurrection begins in the early morning as Mary Magdalene stands before an empty tomb. Mary senses both the predawn darkness surrounding her and the painful darkness within her as she mourns the death of her beloved Jesus. Mary is experiencing a void of hopelessness, a crushing sense of loss, and tremendous grief that cannot be articulated in words as she stands before an empty tomb. But in the midst of her pain and sorrow she continues to possess the **faith** and courage to continue **hoping** that the story of her Crucified Jesus is not over. Mary's hope and wish **is** eventually realized when she encounters the Risen Jesus.

Today, we too discover and encounter the Risen Jesus in the midst of darkness. For the past five weeks we all have been stumbling in and thru the darkness of the Coronavirus/COVID 19 pandemic crisis. Perhaps during the darkness of this health crisis some of us or maybe one of our loved ones has tested positive and now suffers from this illness. Maybe we have experienced financial difficulties as we were laid-off from our job and now worry about making ends meet. Perhaps some of us are feeling tremendous emotional distress, anxiety or depression because we are overwhelmed and have lost all sense of hope. Maybe we are feeling lonely and broken-hearted because we are isolated, quarantined and separated from loved ones. Or perhaps we feel disconnected and distant from God and our brothers and sisters because we cannot partake of Holy Mass and receive the Most Holy Eucharist. All this darkness has been depressing, overwhelming, frightening and very painful for every one of us.

Today the Risen Jesus calls each and every one of us out of the darkness that has shrouded our lives these past five weeks. The Risen Jesus invites us to follow Him into the **light** of possibility, healing, comfort, happiness, hope and re-creation. **Jesus' Resurrection** illuminates those dark places where we have been entombed. **Jesus' Resurrection** focuses our attention and vision on what we have never seen before as it dares us to imagine possibilities beyond our limited understanding of what is possible. In rising from the dead, Jesus brings into **our** lives everything that He taught, lived and gave-love, compassion, hope, joy, healing, forgiveness and new life. We **can** and **should** rejoice and be glad because the Risen Jesus triumphs over all darkness: our sins, fears, disappointments, sufferings, grief, despair,

loneliness, worries, depression, isolation, sickness, and death.

Like Mary Magdalene, we too stand before an empty tomb this Easter Sunday morning. We may wonder about the importance and significance of Jesus' empty tomb. However, if we have **Easter faith** we will realize that the empty tomb is a sign of God's love for us: that in Jesus all things are possible, that Jesus empowers us to live our lives with meaning and purpose, and that in listening to and following Jesus we are capable of becoming the person God created us to be. If we have **Easter hope** we will discover that the empty tomb **is** the bud of God's spring of rebirth and re-creation.

Today as we remember and celebrate the joyous and glorious miracle of Jesus' Resurrection, let's not fear the darkness that surrounds us. Rather let us wholeheartedly embrace the **light** and **hope** that Jesus offers to each one of us. And like the faithful, courageous and zealous Mary Magdalene, let us rejoice and boldly go forth proclaiming to all that Jesus has truly been raised. Let us shout out to all that Jesus **is** very much alive and He **is** present in our midst. May the Risen Jesus continue to bless you and your loved ones all the days of your lives. I wish everyone a **most blessed** and **joyful Easter**. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen.**

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 11	8:30 p.m.	Rosemary Meyer, Jim Alt, Sue Schlumbohm & Kent Bullman
Sun Apr 12	8:30 a.m.	Kathy Sehlhorst
	11:00 a.m.	Carolyn Yeagle
Sat Apr 18	5:00 p.m.	Charley and Mim Shepler
Sun Apr 19	8:30 a.m.	Tim and Imogene Kahle

SUNDAY COLLECTION



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Readings for April 19, 2020

Divine Mercy Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:42 – 47

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3 – 9

Gospel Reading: John 20:19 – 31

