

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH

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As we approach our final week of Lenten preparation, I know many of us may have a difficult time this year looking forward to Easter Sunday with a joyful spirit. This unprecedented time of isolation, fear, and sickness of mind and body is rightly hard to overcome this time of suffering will not likely be over on Easter and we cannot overcome this suffering on our own.

However, we must remember our hope is in the Lord and no matter what goes on here on earth, He did rise from the dead and we will once again experience Easter Joy, just in a very different way. Easter Joy should still be felt and celebrated as it exists in our hearts, families, and homes. Though we desire community in our church, we can have Easter Joy at home. Jesus rose from the dead, nothing will change that.

I will profoundly miss celebrating Holy Week and the Easter Triduum with all of you present in the church. Be assured, you will be present in spirit and you will be in my prayers during the liturgies.

Please see the attached Live Stream Holy Week Schedule. It also includes details regarding flower memorials, adoration times, and confession appointments.

We are striving to retain as many Easter traditions as possible to enhance your personal celebration of Easter. As we join our suffering to Christ's and offer ourselves on the altar of sacrifice in a spiritual communion, let us pray for those who are sick and suffering and for the grace and strength to persevere through this trial and to grow and be better after it is over. Let us pray and remember after this to never take for granted the sacraments.

Lastly, during this time of suffering, there is hope. Hope in the Lord. The below is an excerpt from Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter *Salvifici Doloris* on the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering.

"As a result of Christ's salvific work, man exists on earth with the hope of eternal life and holiness. And even though the victory over sin and death achieved by Christ in his Cross and Resurrection does not abolish temporal suffering from human life, nor free from suffering the whole historical dimension of human existence, it nevertheless throws a new light upon this dimension and upon every suffering: the light of salvation.

This is the light of the Gospel, that is, of the Good News. At the heart of this light is the truth expounded in the conversation with Nicodemus: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son"(31). This truth radically changes the picture of man's history and his earthly situation."

He is risen and we hope in the Lord,

Fr. Doug