



## ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston*

6005 North Wayside Dr., Houston, Texas 77028-4494

Established 1964

Easter greetings to you and your family!

For the past five weeks, we have experienced an unprecedented series of events in the history of humanity. Suddenly all that we knew to be a normal life changed overnight. Our churches, businesses, schools, and parks are all closed. The most unfortunate aspect is that for the first-time humanity felt helpless in the face of this invisible enemy called coronavirus.

As a parish family, I know this must have been a very difficult time for most of us. Our inability to attend mass (especially the Easter triduum) and receive the sacraments is not something we ever thought would be possible. I cannot even imagine how distressing it will be for most of our parish members, especially the seniors. We all love to hang out at the hall and have coffee after mass. We love to interact and socialize with one another. We love to worship and sing together. Unfortunately, we cannot do any of these at this point.

However, despite the difficult and abnormal times in which we are living now, the members of St. Peter Claver Parish have shown resilience and understanding. You have all shown greater love towards one another and the church. For this, I am deeply grateful. Many of you despite the lockdown have volunteered to help the church in different capacities. Your moral, spiritual, and financial support have been very critical to the maintenance and sustenance of the church. Once again, I am deeply grateful.

A time like this reveals our common humanity. A time like this teaches us that no matter who we are and where we come from, we are all equal in the eyes of God. A time like this makes us understand that vanity upon vanity all is vanity and that the most important thing in life is to seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness. A time like this also reveals to us that there are powers of wickedness operating in high places. These dark powers are real, and they are working overtime right now!

The scriptures tell us that God has not given a spirit of fear. We all know that fear is the greatest tool of the evil one. Therefore, Jesus asks us in John 14:1, not to let our hearts be troubled but to trust in God.

My dear parishioners, the message of Easter reminds us that even amid darkness, the light of Christ will eventually shine forth. No matter how helpless we are right now if we continue to hold on to our faith, victory be our ours. There is nothing God cannot do. No matter the plans of the enemy to cage all of us in fear, God will surely have the final word in this crisis.

In the meantime, please continue to take all the necessary precautions to stay safe. Enjoy this time with your family and loved ones. Be nice and charitable to others. But most importantly PRAY, PRAY, AND PRAY.

God bless you all and be assured of my constant prayers and daily masses for you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Fr. Kingsley Ogbuji SSJ