

## EASTER 2020

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Yes, even in the midst of the current health crisis ...especially  
in the midst of the current health crisis

...we must rejoice and give praise to God our loving Father for  
the Resurrection of his Son that we celebrate today.

For Jesus Christ has conquered death and the grave is no  
longer the final story.

The sickness and sense of isolation that we are experiencing,  
as well as all of the exhaustion, frustration, and feelings of  
despair, are very real.

But (as I have quoted St. Paul to you before), "God makes all  
things work for the good of those who love Him."

And that is overwhelmingly testified to in the Death and  
Resurrection of Jesus.

There are two plants by the parish center that I think are  
called "resurrection lilies".

The green leaves of these plants started to grow while it was  
still winter. Now they very large.

However, in a few weeks they will "die" as they wither  
down to nothing. They actually become quite ugly, and each  
year I am tempted to dig them up.

Then, out of seemingly dead leaves, sprout tall, beautiful  
flowers, which produce a delicate fragrance.

And so, let us recognize that good is blossoming during this  
pandemic.

Have you ever heard "prayer" talked about so much on TV?

And think about the countless sacrifices that so many are making, as well as the simple acts of kindness and appreciation, are blooming everywhere.

How does this happen, how is it possible?

It is because of the power of faith, and for we as Christians, that faith is in a person, Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and alive and present in our midst through the Holy Spirit!

And so, my dear family, I pray that your burden is not so great that you cannot give thanks to God this day.

Our faith gives birth to hope which casts out fear and despair and gives us the courage to love, and to experience the joy which Jesus said he wanted us to share.

That is the message of this day.

That is the message I want to share with you and the message that I want you to share with others.

I extend to all of you my best wishes for a happy Easter and my promise to continue to keep you in my prayers as I know you are keeping me in yours.

May God bless each and every one of you throughout the 50 days of the Easter Season. Let us pray that, please God, we will be together in church once again to celebrate the glorious feast of Pentecost on May 30/31st.

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