



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

March 2021

My dear parishioners,

Lent is passing quickly; Holy Week is just a week or so away. We mark so many dramatic events at this time: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; his poignant last meal with his friends; his trial and brutal execution. But the darkness of Good Friday leads inexorably to the glorious "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!" of Easter Sunday. It is our annual pilgrimage into both the darkness of human existence and the life-giving light of the Resurrection.



An Easter People

Valerie Schultz has this to say about Easter:

While Easter lasts one day in the secular world, we know that it is our mission to live as an Easter people. We know what it is to forgive and to be forgiven. Easter people know and are grateful for God's gifts of grace and salvation. We know that God is always close by with outstretched hands, to pick us up, dust us off, and give us another chance to do God's will. . .

Let us keep in mind that the glory of Easter's dawn leads us ever closer to the gifts of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit brings us hope and strength. In return, we are called to accept the responsibility we have to each other—to speak in a language that others understand, to listen with the heart, and to minister with kindness and joy.

The powerful wind and the holy breath of the first Pentecost filled the Apostles with faith and fortitude (Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit breathes upon us in the same way all these centuries later, encouraging us to step out of safety and to go among the nations to build God's kingdom here and now. We may be led to places we never imagined ourselves going.

When we are mindful of God's presence, we will find that life is full of sacred surprises.

—Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter Week, by Valerie Schultz, Liguori Press

My prayer for you this Easter is that the light of the Resurrection will fill you once again and remain with you throughout the year. May the Risen Lord grant peace to our world.

Holy Week Then and Now



Holy Week is always so special at St. Matthew's. In the past, thousands of people come to celebrate the greatest week of the liturgical year, heralded by the blessing of palms, marked by beautiful and somber liturgies, and ending with the triumphant Resurrection of our Lord. The preparations for these overflowing celebrations are a labor of love - how we look forward to welcoming you and to being uplifted by your love of the Lord!

This year our Lenten desert again brings us to making sacrifices not of our choosing. Cardinal Gregory will celebrate liturgies that are limited to 150 persons physically present, or brought to you online via

livestream. The Schola Cantorum will be limited to a quartet. Only a few liturgical ministers. The assembly not singing. This year is again different. The sacrifices we are all making will not be forgotten. **Yet, we will celebrate new life and hope.** We will gather with our Cardinal and one another in person or in spirit, and as Church we will shout out the Hosannas on Palm Sunday and the Alleluias at Easter. We will pray for the dead, the sick and the dying – including many of our loved ones – confident in the new life Christ has won for us. **Four catechumens will be baptized at the Easter Vigil, nine candidates received into full communion, and three will complete their Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.** It will indeed be a celebration!



I have attached a listing of our Holy Week & Easter liturgies.

To Those Who Can Give, We Ask for Help

I thank all who participate in FaithDirect and otherwise give faithfully to support our Cathedral parish. The reality, however, is that due to the limited participation at Mass we are missing most of our income from the Sunday offertory collections.

Before Christmas I reached out to you and your response was so very generous that we were able to pay overdue bills. Making ends meet is difficult. Most parishes are hurting. We want to encourage increased use of FaithDirect. We already have reduced staff hours. FaithDirect is the best way to make a contribution. I'm sorry to turn to you again, but I really need your help, especially if you are in a position to give at this time.

Giving Options



Your gifts are the lifeline for our Cathedral parish! **Please consider making a special gift this Easter.** Your whole gift goes only to the parish. You may mail your offering to the rectory, drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave on Sundays, or give via FaithDirect (membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/DC284; Church code 284). You also may donate via PayPal with debit & credit options. Just scan the QR code at left, or access these options through our website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org – choose *Make a Gift* on the website front page, then choose *Donate* under *Make a One-Time Gift*. You will be remembered at our Easter season Masses. Thank you so much. Muchas gracias.

As we look forward I have asked for further belt-tightening by my staff. In the new fiscal year we must look at possible long-term solutions. Please, consider how we can join together in handling this present financial dilemma. I know I can count on you. Thank you. Thank you. Stay safe and take care. God bless.

All of us at St. Matthew's send our prayers and wishes to you and yours for a blessed Holy Week. "May God's blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts." (from Pope Francis' *Urbi et Orbi* blessing, March 27, 2020)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, V.F.
Rector