

My dear parishioner:

Easter can be so rich, so illuminating, so profound, so stimulating, so nourishing that it takes the 50 days until Pentecost to unpack its meaning in all the Sunday Masses, at least for those baptized and received into the Church. These neophytes (newly received into the Church) can be so full of joy that it rubs off on everyone with whom they come in contact. The whole parish can be in a mood of celebration during the Easter Season.

Surely we do Lent well. Catechumens are excited about their coming initiation. Others find meaning in getting up early to go to daily Mass, fasting from Kit-Kat chocolate bars or spending a half hour in prayer. But Easter can soon lose its fizzle usually after the second week. Few are the parishes that can sustain the joy of Easter for eight Sundays. If you really believe you had a share in the Resurrection, if you really sense a Risen Life bubbling up from within, wouldn't you want to sustain the joy of Easter as long as you could? Wouldn't you want to hear stories of transformation (Risen Life) from anyone and everyone?

Unfortunately, however, we usually experience a truncated Paschal Mystery, skewed towards the suffering and death side, because we do not strongly believe that Risen Life can happen this side of afterlife. At least that's something, believing that there is a life after death ahead of us that will never end, but if suffering and death are so obvious in our earth journey, we should also celebrate and make visible the signs of Resurrection in our lives here and now.

Here are some ways we can experience the joy of Easter all year long:

- The joy of waking up every day and seeing the beauty that God has created for each of us.
- The joy of a meaningful conversation with good friends, those special ones who make us feel whole and worthwhile.
- The joy of participating in the Christmas, Holy Week and Easter liturgies in my parish.
- The joy and privilege of celebrating Easter Sunday Mass, making it clear that Easter is a "big deal" in your lives.
- The joy your puppy brings when he rests his nose on your foot, and the joy that brings the springtime of nature in all of her glory.
- The joy of looking forward to share a special trip or vacation time with family and friends.
- The joy that brings to our soul the promise of Christ that one day we will be sharing His peace in heaven.

Perhaps many of us are afraid of joy because we fear losing our balance. But think joy IS the greatest sign of the Resurrection. Without it, Easter is dull, drab and uninspiring. Easter is the joy that comes after realizing that your despair and your hopelessness is unfounded. It is in finding the Risen Lord **ALIVE** when you come to bury Him. It is realizing that true peace can come to the Middle East, or that Congress can come together and work together for the good of all people and the best for our country; or you've finally landed a good job after two long years of searching; or your child's bout with leukemia is now in remission; or your spouse has just celebrated a full-long year of sobriety; or there are signs of hope in your failing marriage.

So, we should be on the lookout for Easter gifts, little or substantial things that bring us joy. Take note of your Easter gifts. Rejoice in them! Sustain them as long as you can! And May you have a wonderful Easter season.

On behalf of myself, as your Pastor, Father Franklin, Father Sunny, Deacon Del Rossi and Deacon Gonzalez, I wish you and your family all the graces and blessings of our Risen Savior.

Yours in the burning hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Rev. Anthony J. Manuppella, KHS
Pastor

My Dear Parishioners:

Once again, we are rapidly approaching that holiest of all weeks – Holy Week – when the Lord calls out to us to share in His Sacred Passion, Death and Resurrection through the Sacred Liturgy of Holy Mother Church.

Walk the Via Dolorosa with us starting on Palm Sunday when we reflect the joy of the Israelites in welcoming Jesus in to Jerusalem.

Gather with us for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, commemorating the institution of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders.

Mourn with us on Good Friday the Passion and Death of our Holy Savior. Kiss His cross, embrace His cross! Walk with His dear sorrowful Mother on the road to Calvary.

Rejoice with us at the Easter Vigil, where people are received into the Catholic Church and receive the Easter sacraments.

As a prelude to the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, get yourself ready and plan on going to confession!

Don't just be a spectator during Holy Week! Read the schedule today and make a note of times and dates to offer yourself with Jesus on the Cross!

Yours in the burning Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Rev. Anthony J. Manuppella, KHS, Pastor

Rev. Franklin Opara, MSSCC, Part Time Parochial Vicar

Rev. Sunny Mathew, in Residence

Rev. Mr. George Del Rossi, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Carlos Gonzalez, Deacon

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2026

MASSES

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 29

Vigil Mass: Saturday, 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
12:00 Noon Traditional Latin Mass
2:00 PM: Mass in Spanish

CONFESSIONS

During the Parish Mission (*March 2 through March 5*)

6:00 PM and after the 7:00 PM Mission
Saturdays from 3:00 until 4:30 PM

CONFESSIONS BEFORE EASTER

Monday, March 30: 7:00-8:30 PM
Wednesday, April 1: 9:00-10:00 AM

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 2

NO MORNING MASS

7:00 PM - Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
Washing of the Feet of the Apostles
Procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament
Solemn Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament at
the Altar of Repose until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 3 (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

NO MORNING MASS

Church doors open at 12 Noon
3:00 PM - Solemn Liturgical Commemoration of
Our Lord's Passion and Death
Solemn Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion
7:00 PM Outdoor Procession with the Dead Christ and His Sorrowful Mother
Stations of the Cross in English and Spanish

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 4

8:15 PM Solemn Easter Vigil Service
(This DOES satisfy your Easter obligation)

MASSES

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
12:00 Noon Traditional Latin Mass
2:00 PM: Mass in Spanish