

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Happy Easter! After being in the desert for forty days we now celebrate the victory that has been won for us in the Resurrection of Jesus for fifty days. One of my favorite moments of the whole year is coming into the dark church on the night of the Easter Vigil. The only light is that of Christ atop the Paschal Candle. The darkness of the church symbolizes the darkness of our world. It reminds us of our need for redemption. Into the darkness comes the Light of Christ. Then, a taper is lit from the Paschal Candle and the faithful begin to share that fire with the person next to them. This is done without fanfare and in silence. Soon you begin to see pockets of fire throughout the church. Finally, before you know it, the darkness is scattered and the church is ablaze with the Light of Christ. So beautiful! As I preach that night, I view that ritual as a model for discipleship. All of us, by virtue of our baptism, have the Light of Christ burning in our hearts. Our mission as priests, prophets, and kings is to let that light shine brightly and share it with others. Often, we think it takes grandiose words or actions to accomplish this. We then feel discouraged or unable to do it. Most often, it is in the simple one-on-one encounters with people when we give them kindness and love that share the Light of Christ. Many people are very lonely and searching in today's culture. To simply acknowledge someone's existence, to love them as Jesus would, and affirm their identity as a child of God is quite profound, even if it is done in the privacy of a one-on-one encounter. As we journey through the Easter season I invite you to discern with whom Jesus is calling you to share your light.

I wish to congratulate the families who received the Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. We had three catechumens who received the Sacraments of Initiation and another couple who completed their Sacraments of Initiation. They were, and are, wonderful witnesses to our parish family of what happens when you encounter Jesus. They have said no to the world and yes to a life of faith. Praise God!

Holy Week is the busiest week of the year for those who work in the Church. So many people put in many hours to make sure that we could pray well and beautifully. I thank all of our staff and volunteers who organized all the logistics, led us in prayer, and created a beautiful environment. Truly, this is a labor of love and we are grateful for your gifts.

Lastly, the response of our parish to the Storm Damage Emergency Fund was incredible. I am, once again, overwhelmed by your generosity. We will continue to update you on the progress of that project.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor