

So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. (Heb 4:16)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write, we are still under the Governor's executive order to stay home and exercise extreme caution- the COVID-19 virus still is wreaking havoc on our world- filling us with uncertainty and causing pain to many.

The above quotation from Hebrews is traditionally read on Good Friday as part of the Lord's Passion. It seems so timely and appropriate in light of our current situation. As Christians we are a people of hope for we seek that mercy and timely help in Christ whose death and resurrection we celebrate at this holy time. So as we pass through this dark night let us together confidently approach that throne of grace for the strength and courage that we need.

While these days of quarantining and social distancing are not what we ever expected they are here with us and they are not going away quietly. Over and over again, we complain about the busyness of our lives- so many activities and demands- so here let us use this time for good purpose. How we use these days will speak volumes about who we are when we look back in a few years. In some ways they are an unexpected opportunity for us to reflect on and strengthen our relationship with Christ and our community of faith. With so many of us quarantined, and the regular busyness of our lives reduced, can we find the time to be more focused on what is truly important- our relationships! Can we find the time for parents to sit down with their children- to call and reach out to grandparents and special friends- to catch up on a good read and yes time to pray, both individually and as a family?

As Christians we ought to have the courage and the humility to recognize that we need this timely help and mercy and to lead the way for others to follow. The advent of this terrible virus has once again brought into sharp view the reality that we are only passing through this world and that our time here is short- our destiny is eternal life, a share in Jesus' resurrection.

I expect that we will celebrate Holy Week/Easter in a very different way this year- but we must celebrate it as it is at the heart of who we are- an Easter People. I expect that we will still be under the stay at home order- so let us just do that- stay at home! Just as the Jewish Passover is celebrated around the family table- let us too celebrate the Christ's Passover from death to life around our family table and therein rediscover its true meaning and joy.

May the Lord bless us all at this time of challenge and crisis!
For Christ has risen- he has risen indeed! Happy Easter!

Fr. James

You may pick up Blessed Palms on Palm Sunday from the main doors of Church or place any greenery on your front door in honor of this day and the beginning of Holy Week.

[Celebrate the Easter Paschal Meal by using the resource here](#) and on our parish website.

[Para español, hazlo clic aqui](#)

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