

St. Landry Catholic Church

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Brothers and Sisters of St. Landry,

I am writing this newsletter to you before Palm Sunday so that you might receive it in a timely fashion before we start Holy Week services. We know that some of you have been getting these a little late, so I wanted to try to get it to you earlier.

Holy Week comes upon us in a time of great upheaval. These times ask of us to allow God's grace to help us to travel new paths that are contrary to our usual way of doing things. We are asked to worship differently. We are asked to model community differently. We are entering a new and challenging paradigm of relating to one another and to the Divine Presence from afar. But we need to remember that although we may be away from the tabernacle of the Divine Presence, we are never far from that same Presence. God is here in our midst, always forgiving, always loving. He is profoundly present in our loneliness, our anxiety, our sadness and disorientation. He is present in our darkness and in our light.

On Holy Thursday we recall that we are made servants in His name. We recall that He shares His body and blood to empower us with the memory that He broke that body and spilt that blood for us and is always with us. Even though we may not be able to receive communion in our customary way, does not mean we are not in communion with each other and with the Christ of God. We walk by faith, not by sight. The mass celebrated on Holy Thursday will be live streamed at 5:30pm.

On Good Friday we remember the price He paid for us to live. We read the Passion of Jesus to allow the Word to enter deep within our being. We turn to the crucifixes and crosses in our homes to adore Jesus, nailed to the tree of death to bring us back to the Tree of Life. Services for Good Friday will be live streamed at 3:00pm.

Most important of all, we celebrate new life with the dawn of Easter. The Vigil invites us to light the new Pascal Candle. I would ask you all to find a candle in your homes and light it with me as I light the Easter Candle at the Vigil Service on Saturday night at 7:00pm. Let the boldness of our light, the light of Jesus, scatter the darkness and light our way to the Father of life. The Vigil will be live streamed as well as the Easter Sunday morning mass at 10:00am.

To not have you here in our sacred home built and established in the name of St. Landry is a burden for all of us. As burdensome as it is, it is not the crux of our faith. The resurrection of Our Lord Jesus brought to the world a new way of being. The incarnate Christ was now freed of His earthly body to clothe Himself in His resurrected body. This new body brings Him to all of us today. This new body shouts to us of His presence in our lives. This new body urges us to see that not only was He changed, but all of us will be changed. Jesus ushers in a new time, a new beginning for us all.

Easter is about new life. A new life for Jesus, the only begotten Son and a new life for us. The earth is alive with the breath of God. All creation shouts the great Alleluia before the God of our fathers and mothers, our God. My hope as your pastor is that each and every one of us will be ablaze with Easter joy. I know how difficult it is to be filled with joy at this time, but as we all remember, nothing is impossible for God. Have a Happy and joy-filled Easter!

Yours in Him,

Msgr. Russell J. Harrington, Pastor