

April 1, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .



An Easter Greeting: Alleluia! The Lord is truly risen! His grace and peace be with you all. I extend to you the Lord's blessings for a very happy and holy Easter. May you see how dying with the Lord also means rising with him. May you come to see how resurrection has the final say in our lives and may Alleluia be the song that is always on our lips and in our hearts. Have fun in these Easter days. Learn to live life to the fullest. Be thankful because grace abounds in Jesus Christ.

An Easter Reflection: As signs of spring become evident, we rejoice in the new and risen life the Lord gives to us all. We are greatly blessed to be children of the Resurrection. We rejoice, too, in the new life we are able to give each other in the Lord's name as the Body of Christ. We have been made anew in order to live as Christ's body. We are, indeed, happy and blessed. What's new with you after your Lenten journey and after doing works of penance, prayer, fasting and giving alms? How is this a Happy Easter? Can you see signs of resurrection and grace? In yourself? In others? In the world?

We pray so well: Holy week is the greatest week of prayer for the church. I thank everyone who contributed to the wonderful, deep and intense prayer of this past week. It is a time for all of our liturgical ministers to use their gifts well, to share their faith with us, and to lead us deeply into the paschal mystery. Bravo to the lectors and Eucharistic ministers who bring the Lord to us in word and sacrament. Our choirs and musicians are so dedicated and faith-filled. Thank you for leading us in song. Ushers and servers always get a workout. Thanks for your diligence and hospitality. Thanks to all who helped clean and make our church so beautiful. Special thanks to the assembly for becoming so engaged in the prayer.

Welcome: One of the signs of Easter that I appreciate the most is the people who gather with us for our liturgies. Whether you worship with us each week, or you are a visitor, or you have returned from school, or you are here because it is Easter, a special welcome to everyone. We are happy and blessed that you can be here to celebrate this solemn and wonderful feast. To all of our visitors, please come back and pray with us often. Congratulations to all who were initiated into the life of the church last night at our Easter Vigil and all the Vigils throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and to all those from other parishes for whom we have been praying.

An Easter Hymn: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; Day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death. All the fair beauty of earth from the death of winter arising! Ev'ry good gift of the year now with its master returns. Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation. Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all. God the Almighty, the Lord, the ruler of earth and the heavens, Guard us from harm without; cleanse us from evil within. Jesus the health of the world, enlighten our minds, great Redeemer, Son of the Father supreme, only begotten of God. Spirit of life and of power, now flow in us, fount of our being, Light that enlightens us all, life that in all may abide. Praise to the giver of good! O Lover and Author of concord, Pour out your balm on our days; order our ways in your peace.

Happy Easter, everyone! Alleluia!!