

A Message from Fr. Brian

Dear Family,

Thank you!

First of all, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all those who have helped in any way to support all of our liturgies for Holy Week, the Triduum, and Easter Sunday. There are so many people needed to help not only make these liturgies beautiful and spiritually nourishing, but also possible. I think the pandemic has left us with a smaller pool of ministers and volunteers, but those who were willing to assist were very dedicated and willing to ensure we could give the most important time of the year the attention it deserves. All of our liturgies were full to capacity, which was a good thing, and we had looked into whether we might need to offer more, but I think we had the right amount, and everyone pulled together to make those fantastic. Thank you again for all that you did to serve the parish's liturgical life in celebrating this most important of times. God bless you all.

Paschal Candle Stand

Perhaps you may have noticed our new paschal candle stand by the ambo, which we put out for the most solemn of occasions, the Easter Vigil. It is made from beautiful polished brass and oak. The liturgy committee and I decided we needed a proper stand for the paschal candle, which should be dignified and fairly unique, since the candle it is to hold is the Christ candle, a clear symbol of Christ, who is the light of the world. It is in the sanctuary from Easter until Pentecost during the Easter season, and also placed beside the body of our deceased loved ones for funerals, recalling their baptism. It can then remain by the baptismal font at other times where it is used for the lighting baptismal candles for the newly baptized. The decoration on the paschal candle this year is a very floral pattern, evoking images of creation, which is now being brought into a glorified state through its association with Christ who, through the Paschal Mystery, has brought about a new creation, a new Garden of Eden made ready for us in heaven.



Divine Mercy Sunday

Why is the Second Sunday of Easter known as Divine Mercy Sunday? The Second Sunday of Easter is actually the final day of the octave of Easter, the eight days during which the liturgical feast of Easter is celebrated as if it were all a singular day. The Gospel for this Sunday takes place on the evening of that first Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection, when he appears to his disciples in the locked room and says to them, "Peace be with you," and gives them his own authority to forgive sins in his name! Pope St. John Paul II said this, "Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity." Indeed, true peace can only be experienced by the power of forgiveness, which is a divine gift given in the face of the rejection and murder of God's own Beloved. I shall save some of my words of reflection on this great day for my homily.

Confirmation

I wanted to share with you the good news that many of our parish's young people will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this month. The Archbishop will be presiding over 3 Masses in our parish to Confirm our 50+ candidates from last year and this year. Due to our limited capacity, these Masses are "invite and registration" only for sponsors and family members of the candidates, but they will all be livestreamed. Please keep these young people in your prayers this month as they prepare for this great Sacrament. Confirmations will be held on the evenings of April 15th, 16th, and 21st. I'm grateful that our sacramental life continues even in the midst of the pandemic; we are in need of Catholic witnesses of hope and joy in our world more than ever now!

May the Risen Lord bless you all in this time of Easter.

Fr. Brian Trueman