

Easter Message 2020

Dear Friends,

There is no doubt that this Lenten season has been a most unusual season for us. This is one Lenten season that we won't forget and will be talking about and handing on down to children and grandchildren. The anomaly of the traditional Lenten season in which we gather for Stations of the Cross, incorporate disciplinary principles, maybe spend extra time in church and prayer has been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, It has caused the suspension of Masses and all other Lenten practices, leaving our churches silent and empty. This penitential time, in which we empty ourselves, would be culminated by the joyous fulfillment of the Easter season of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This past week, I was forced to contemplate on a statement brought to my attention in which the comment was made, "that there would be no Easter this year". Obviously, this comment was made out of frustration and disappointment that our churches would be closed to Mass for the Easter celebration. Understandably so, I felt the disappointment of not being able to gather for the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, however not be able to gather as a community would not stop Easter from happening.

There are many theories about the derivation of the word "Easter". One theory is it is an old German word meaning "east", which is derived from an older Latin word meaning "dawn". In Spring, dawn marks the beginning of time when the day outlasts the night. In the Resurrection, Christ was the new light that shed its illumination over the darkness of death. No event in our world can take that away. For the last 2020 years Christians have been reliving that salvific event. Even though this pandemic has shed its darkness over our penitential season and threatens to spread it into our Easter season, the "Light" has already come into our world and it is up to us to see that light through the darkest of days. To do that we need to believe and trust in the Lord.

May all of you have a most blessed Easter and make it one you can hand down to children and grandchildren!

God bless and peace, Deacon Doug