



Easter Sunday 2020

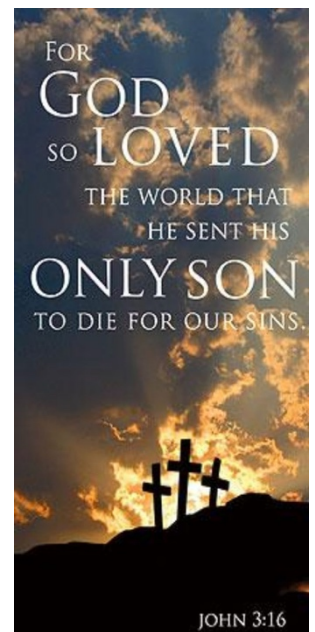
**Dear Parishioners & St. Teresa School Staff, Students and Parents,**

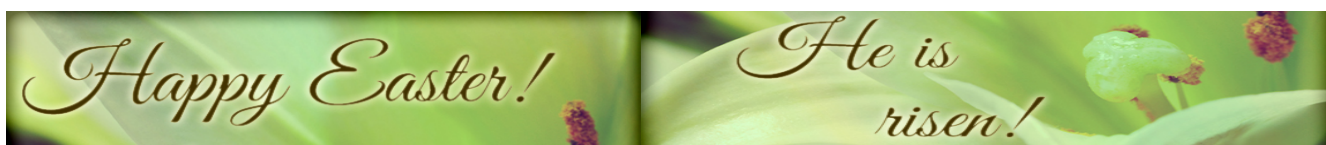
Since Easter is approaching very quickly, I decided to write this letter, to share briefly with you, what has been happening at our parish. First of all, I would like to let you know that I am doing well and that I have been praying for you, every day, that you also, are doing well. I would love to hear from you. Please leave a short message on our answering system, send an email or just a simple card saying how you are doing.

As you know the churches are closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Although physical participation of our parishioners in Mass and other sacraments has been suspended, I have not stopped celebrating Mass. Moreover, I streamline the Eucharist and the Divine Mercy devotion on the Zoom application. The detailed programming, including how you can join us for the Holy Week celebrations is included on the reverse side of this letter.

This season of Lent and Holy Week are so much different from other years. Some of our parishioners were asking me how we should read these signs of our time. What is God trying to tell us? Certainly, God is saying something different to each one of us, but also something that is common and applies to everyone. The season of Lent started with the Gospel story of Jesus going out into the desert. I believe that we are now on a pilgrimage through “the desert”. Even though we have entered Holy Week, this journey is not yet finished. God led the Israelites for 40 years through the desert, in order for them to leave behind their “slave” mentality. During this time of trial, we see limitations on our freedoms, people infected with the Corona virus disease and growing fear that our economy is going to crumble completely. At the same time, we see people praying more often – “those who were atheists two weeks ago, now bend their knees and seek God’s help”, families have more time to be with each other, people who have not talked for years have reconnected, neighbours are helping each other, people have become more friendly and more aware of others’ needs.

During this time of being in “the desert”, God gives us an opportunity to adore Him, to be with Him through prayer, silence and generous caring for others. We could also compare this experience to the disciples of Jesus who were locked in the upper room: “That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind the locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”





At the present time, we are dealing with all of forms of fear. Fear of the unknown, of losing a job, not having enough money to pay the mortgage, losing someone close to us. That fear, can control us and make us slaves to our worries and block our ability to live normal lives. This fear might also help us - to bend our knees and surrender our life to God. This is why we need to invite Jesus into our hearts. He is not afraid of the Coronavirus, or any political or social structures that exclude Him. He comes to bring Peace and His Kingdom, which is not from this world. We understand now a bit differently the words spoken by Martha to Jesus: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (J 11, 21) Perhaps if our society would not exclude God from public life we would not have to go through these tribulations and challenges. Perhaps now, we realize that we need God as much as fresh air. St. Padre Pio said: "The world needs the Eucharist more than the sun."

On Palm Sunday, I not only prayed for you, but I also blessed the palm branches, which I have enclosed in regular mailing, in order to let you know, that we are all branches rooted in Jesus. He came to tell us: **"Do not be afraid ..."** and **"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."** (J 11, 25) Jesus came to us with this specific message - we have to die to many things, in order to live.

As the church remains closed, I would also ask you to continue to keep our parish community in your prayers and prayerfully consider continuing your donations either by mail, or drop off through the slot in the Parish Office door. You can also, if you choose, make your donations by credit card by following this link: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/give/> More details can be found at: [www.stteresakit.ca](http://www.stteresakit.ca)

**At this time, I would also like to send you my very best wishes for Easter!**  
**May the Risen Christ continue to inspire us in our spiritual life.**  
**May His gift of peace, joy and freedom dwell in our hearts.**  
**May the Risen Lord help us to overcome all our fears, in order to become His witnesses.**

**Happy Easter!**



### **Holy Week Celebrations:**

Tuesday to Thursday at 3:00 p.m. - [The Divine Mercy Chaplet](#)

Tuesday to Thursday at 7:00 p.m. - Mass

**Good Friday:** 3:00 p.m. - Passion of Jesus and Divine Mercy Novena

**Good Friday:** 7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

**Holy Saturday:** 3:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy Novena

**Easter Sunday:** 10:00 a.m. - Resurrection Mass

Please join us on ZOOM by following this link during the celebrations listed above:

<https://zoom.us/j/5887658626?pwd=Y1Y1UjN0c3NwdElUQ1pOUUpEVUR0dz09>

Meeting ID: 588 765 8626; Password: 274733

Please visit our website regularly, for more details: [www.stteresakit.ca](http://www.stteresakit.ca)

