



SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish,

Holy Week is upon us. It is a time to remember Christ's Passover from death into life through his entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the betrayal, arrest, suffering, death, and most importantly, his Resurrection. Each year, the Jewish people remember their deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the Passover; each year, the Christian Church celebrates our deliverance from slavery to sin and death by this holy memorial.

Like our Jewish forebears, when we remember our salvation, we are present to it. When we participate in the Holy Week celebrations, we are present with Christ and the disciples in a manner so profound that our senses cannot fully perceive it. Nonetheless, anyone who has participated in the celebration of these mysteries with an open heart can sense something beyond what is sensible. We know that Christ is in our midst.

That is why I would like to encourage all of our parishioners to attend as many of these celebrations as possible. Our memorial of Holy Week expresses every possible human reality as we walk the path of Christ. To celebrate Good Friday without celebrating Holy Thursday or Easter Sunday or to celebrate Easter Sunday without Good Friday or Holy Saturday is to miss out on the balance of the season.

That being said, there is one neglected celebration that can provide particular consolation to us in the present age: Holy Saturday. In the Jewish tradition, God rests on the Saturday Sabbath; in the Christian tradition, Jesus rests in the tomb on the Sabbath preaching to those who dwelled in the "heart of the earth" (1 Peter 3:19, 4:6). All those who, for whatever reason, have dwelt in deepest darkness, will have been given an opportunity to hear his voice.

Many of us have suffered the tragic loss of our loved ones through age, disease, accidents, miscarriages, addictions, mental illnesses, suicides, and other tragedies. When Jesus descended to the heart of the earth, he comes to us all and we can share in this work of love and mercy. On Holy Saturday morning at 10am, I invite you to join us as we pray for all those who have died.

When Christ rose from the dead, his wounds brought hope to Thomas and the other disciples. The power of the Resurrection is revealed when it makes our own wounds a source of healing for others. Just as he has loved us, so we must love one another.

Yours in the Lord Jesus

Fr David Hogman