



St. Mary Church

Rev. Robert Jallas, Pastor

March 22, 2020

*“Rejoice, Jerusalem and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning . . .”*

Isaiah 66:10-11

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary’s,

In our tradition, this Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called **“Laetare Sunday”**, Latin for “rejoice” – from what is sometimes called the entrance antiphon of today’s Mass. We are beyond the halfway mark of this Lenten season – and what a Lenten season it has turned out to be! “Rejoice” may seem like a rather unsuitable word for now and even naïve, but we are a people of Christian faith and thus a people of hope.

Our gospel reading for this Sunday is Jesus encountering the man born blind and bestowing upon him the gift of sight (John 9:1-41). In the progression of this miracle, the blind man not only grows in physical sight but also interior vision, while, those around him actually descend into darkness due to fear, prejudice, and a lack of trust. This is really a hope-filled encounter!

To be nourished in hope, we, too, need to “see” the Lord. The good news is that God also is forever seeking us out, “tapping us on the shoulder”, so to speak, with words, gestures, and actions of encouragement around us if we but see. I have experienced such these past days during this “shelter-at-home” time and I know you have as well.

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Though there are no public Masses at this time, like all priests across our diocese, I am offering daily Mass privately for you, your families and loved ones and our community of faith that is St. Mary’s. Our two seminarians, Jayke White and Padrick Mulligan, are also home from seminary and offering the daily Liturgy of the Hours for you as well. (And like many students, they continue to take their seminary classes on-line!)

Our parish bulletin, though abbreviated, will also be on-line when it is published weekly. More information will be forthcoming.

Above all, let us hold one another in prayer.

Blessings in the Lord,

Fr. Bob