

HAPPY EASTER to all of you present here at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. All who have prepared for this day by sacrificing your time in order to come to know our Lord better. Weather it was participating in the sacraments more frequently (going to a daily Mass, receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation more often,) taking time to visit the Blessed Sacrament during the day in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, making some time each day to stop and pray, attending Adoration on Friday evenings, taking time to read from the Bible, supporting worthy causes, donating to the poor through St Vincent DePaul, or any other way you chose. So we are joyful this day in a special way as we enjoy the fruits of our sacrifice.

Are we joyful because we don't have to worry about making sacrifices anymore? Well if that is our reason for joy then we have a little more to learn about **the love that our God has for us**.

The Easter Season lasts another 50 days and we are called to be messengers of God's joy. We are told to understand the calling of a Christian as our true purpose in this life. We have been given an assignment to share Our Lord's message of joy so that others in our families and acquaintances can also share in the joy of the risen Lord.

We see that Jesus made himself seen by the Apostles, as Peter shared in Acts, and that they were called to witness to the fact that Jesus was the Messiah who came to free us from the burden and addiction to sin. And when we are relieved from such a burden, **we know true freedom**. This is a message that all of us need to promote. It is a message that is alive in our hearts and worth spreading. Let us pray that the Easter Season never ends after Pentecost and that Easter grace will feed us every day of our lives.

This can be accomplished if we continually **SEEK WHAT IS FROM ABOVE**. As Paul wrote to the Colossians:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col 3:1-3)

So we continue to seek Jesus where He may be found. Being good Catholics, we know that the Church has provided many ways to find Jesus. We go back to the list of the Sacraments and other prayerful things we can do to grow closer to Jesus.

participating in the sacraments more frequently

Sacraments are outward signs, instituted by Christ to give us grace

going to a daily Mass,

receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a month

taking time to visit the Blessed Sacrament during the day in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel,

taking some time each day to stop and pray,

attending Adoration on Friday evenings,

taking time to read from the Bible,

supporting worthy causes,

donating to the poor through St Vincent DePaul, Knights of Columbus.

Offer a weekend up to the Lord by making a “Christ Renews His Parish” weekend.
or any other way you chose.

May we all dedicate ourselves to growing closer to Jesus by doing our part in His life saving mission of sharing the joy of Easter every day of the year.