

From the Pastor
April 25, 2021
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

PEACE BE WITH YOU

These are the very first words of Our Risen Lord to the Apostles when He appeared to them on the evening of the First Easter. *Peace be with you!* Our Lord never used that expression in greeting anyone during the time of His public life. When he raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead he did not say, *Peace be with you*. When He fed the five thousand, He did not say, *Peace be with you*. No, that greeting would only be given after His passion, death, and holy resurrection. The peace Our Lord brings is the peace that follows the defeat of darkness, evil, and death.

Twenty centuries have passed since Our Lord made this most precious gift to humanity. On the night of His holy nativity the angles sang, "*Peace to men of good will.*" Peace is the seal of Christ. It is not just one of His many gifts; it is, in a certain way, His own gift. When our Lord first appeared on that unforgettable night in Bethlehem, the angels proclaimed peace. On another unforgettable night, the last that he spent on earth, the sweet night of the Institution of the Blessed Eucharist, Our Lord left peace to His loved ones as a testament of His love, *Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you.*

In her Liturgy holy Church reminds us of this great gift. At Holy Mass we are bidden, *Go in peace*. The newly baptized are bidden, *Go in Peace*. Those washed of their sins in the Sacrament of Penance are bidden *Go in Peace*.

Our Lord's peace is different from that of the world. The world counterfeits everything but it cannot counterfeit peace. It may represent joy; the world's happiness is always artificial. The world counterfeits wisdom, dazzling the ignorant with a worldly and vain knowledge. The worlds counterfeits love, giving this sacred name to brute passion. The world is the child of satan, the father of lies, and counterfeits and falsifies everything.

SPRING AT ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

We remind you that our little ones will be receiving First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 1st. They will participate in the May Crowning on Sunday May 9th after the 10.30AM Mass. On that day they will be enrolled in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Our Confirmation students will be making their Confirmation on Saturday, May 22nd.

Please see elsewhere in the Bulletin information about our Annual Communion Breakfast sponsored by the Marian Guild and the Knights of Columbus. The Guild members and the Knights and squires will attend the 10.30 Mass and the Breakfast will immediately follow the Mass. Our guest celebrant for the Mass and speaker at the Communion Breakfast is Father John Crozier who was ordained a priest in June of 2020. We had hoped that he would have been our guest for the Communion Breakfast in 2020, but the Covid-19 made that an impossibility. Father Crozier worked here at St. Paul's in the summers of 2013 and 2014 while he was doing his seminary studies. We welcome Father Crozier in the charity of Christ.

In Jesus and Mary,
Monsignor James F. Pereda