

Dear Parish Family-

Happy Easter! Yes, it is still Easter and will be for several weeks. Today we celebrate 'Divine Mercy Sunday' also known as the Second Sunday of Easter. Named for the revelations given to St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun. Pope St. John Paul ordered this Second Sunday of Easter to be known as Divine Mercy Sunday to spread the message of God's Divine Mercy found in the death and Resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, the messenger of God's Mercy. On this glorious day we will be having our socially distanced Covid-19 safe first of our First Communions, they will take place later in the day Sunday and by ticket only. We offer blessings and prayers for these children as they receive the Lord Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist for the first time on this most special Divine Mercy Sunday.

I receive numerous and many notes about how beautiful the Church looked for Easter. The goal was to provide something special during this long Covid-19 worldwide pandemic. Based on the comments I would say we achieved that end. Several long time founding families noted they thought it was the most beautiful in all their years in the parish. That is indeed high praise. I think the effort was well worth it. Normally we have a great crew of volunteers who assist every year but due to the pandemic restrictions that was not possible this year. So the staff took on the job with gusto, especially Pat and Joey Tun our Youth Minister. I want to thank our parish secretary Pat for brainstorming as early as the Epiphany! Her husband constructed the Cross and she stained and decorated it. There were many iterations until she found the exact one with the most impact, a great deal of thought and time was put into making this Easter special for everyone whether live or Live Stream. The Icons were gifted to the parish by the Iconographer Mary Grieco who is a parishioner. She donated the 'No Me Tangere', the encounter between Mary Magdala and Jesus in the Garden which graces the front of the Ambo. Along with the head of Christ, called 'Pantocrator' and the head of Blessed Virgin Mary called 'Theotokos' which are on the right and Left of the Sanctuary respectively. She also gifted us a St. Nicholas and a St. John the Baptist, the forerunner (which are not on view at the moment). These are original hand painted Icons on using traditional Egg Tempera method on Board. Thank you to Mary Grieco as these added to the solemnity of Easter.

Hang in there, things are starting to improve with the pandemic, we just need to hold on a little bit longer but it seems some light is visible at the end of the tunnel!

Peace and Good – Fr. Bambrick