



“In his great mercy he has given us
new birth into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ...”

1 Peter 1:3

Easter 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Matthew,

“The light of Christ” is our proclamation at the Easter Vigil that resounds through a Church still left in the shadows and darkness of Good Friday. It is the Paschal Candle, the chief symbol of the risen Christ, that begins to dispel that darkness and usher us into the light.

These words boldly express the faith that comes from the very depths of who we are as adopted daughters and sons of our gracious God. They remind us that our God loves us so much that He even sent us His Son to redeem us so that we might share in His everlasting life. What was lost through the sin of disobedience is now restored by the obedience of His Son, once for all.

Mary, Peter and John struggled with the early morning darkness when they find the empty tomb and what it meant, but it didn't take too long before the light of the risen Lord would embrace them then and us today. Reflecting more intensely on the Paschal Mystery transforms us from a people of darkness to a people of the light of Christ.

“When the Sabbath was over” it was not just a day that had ended, but the whole era of redemptive anticipation was over. We are now His visible presence everywhere. The new era of Jesus' resurrection begins with Him entrusting us with His life and love; a passing over of His mission to us. We cooperate with God's life and love for us when we let Him use us as His instruments for the renewal of society. The transformation begun during Lent continues into the Easter Season and whatever it takes going forward. In this way, we continue the redeeming work of the risen Lord.

During this past year, we have walked through the darkness of the Coronavirus Pandemic, and it is not over yet. But like the disciples on that first Easter morning, we believe and we trust that the light of Christ will help us overcome the shadows of our doubts and continue to be our source of great hope in this time of mixed messages and uncertainty.

Faced with challenging times, we continue to move forward being good stewards of our parish facilities and resources. This summer, with your generous support, the plan is to resurface the parking lot along the west side of the church and install a cement platform for the dumpster that is also strong enough to hold a heavy-duty truck that services the dumpster. The long-awaited dream for redoing the west parking lot is soon to be realized with your support.

Additionally, funds permitting, we may also be able to do a partial replacement of the rectory driveway, and some broken curbs together with some repairs, sealcoating and striping of the upper south parking lot this summer. The estimated cost is approximately \$75,000.

Your continued generous support, large or small within your means, will help us realize the improvements for our long-term parish sustainability going forward. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.

Jesus, our risen Lord, is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and we are an Easter people and our song is Alleluia! May Easter hope be always with you! Happy Easter!

Sincerely,

Rev. Joseph Glab, CR
Pastor