

April 12  
2020

# Easter

# SUNDAY

HE HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD,  
AND HE IS GOING  
BEFORE YOU TO GALILEE.

Matthew 28:7

**ST. MONICA CHURCH**  
12136 OLIVE BLVD.  
CREVE COEUR, MO 63141-6629

Dear Parishioners,

**This weekend we of course, celebrate Easter ... the Resurrection of the Lord ... THE most important HOLY DAY in the Christian Calendar. ALLELUIA!** We will sing out with joy for the Easter Miracle ... THE LORD IS RISEN! We have been saved. Death no longer had ultimate power over us. We anticipate the day when we too will be raised with Christ. As baptized Christians we have already been raised. We have been raised out of the ashes of despair, raised up to being saved! "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!" This will be an Easter unlike any other since none of you will be able to be at Holy Mass. BUT the message is the same: CHRIST IS RISEN!

**Next Weekend, the Second Sunday of Easter, we will commemorate the faith of Saint Thomas the Apostle.** Not only that but it is also DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. The gift of compassionate forgiveness that is offered to all. For generations people had turned away from God, failing to respect the law or the prophets. Yet God sent us His Son, who took upon Himself the sins of the world in order to redeem us all. May our participation at Holy Mass next weekend be a sign of our gratitude as we lift up our hearts and voices to the author of Divine Mercy.

**Several weeks ago, in the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayers priests, deacons, many religious, and a good number of lay faithful pray each day there was a reading from Saint Athanasius, the Patriarch of Alexandria (Egypt) back in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century.** It could have been written for us. This is what he wrote, so long ago, about Easter: *"The grace of the feast (of Easter) is not restricted to one occasion. Its rays of glory never set. It is always at hand to enlighten the mind of those who desire it. Its power is always there for those whose minds have been enlightened and who meditate day and night on the Holy Scriptures, like the one who is called blessed in the holy psalm (Psalm 1): Blessed is the man who has not followed the counsel of the wicked, or stood where sinners stand, or sat in the seat of the scornful, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. Moreover, my friends, the God who first established this feast for us allows us to celebrate it each year. He who gave up his Son to death for our salvation, from the same motive gives us this feast, which is commemorated every year. This feast guides us through the trials that meet us in this world. God now gives us the joy of salvation that shines out from this feast, as he brings us together to form one assembly, uniting us all in spirit in every place, allowing us to pray together and to offer common thanksgiving, as is our duty on the feast. Such is the wonder of his love: he gathers to this feast those who are far apart and brings together in unity of faith those who may be physically separated from each other."*

We are definitely "far apart" this Easter ... but he "brings together in unity of faith those who may be physically separated from each other."

I mentioned this in my e-mail message on April 2, but on March 30 Pope Francis approved a new Mass to be prayed during this pandemic. The collect (opening prayer) of that Mass is MOST appropriate ... so I hope you would consider praying it at home, perhaps at meal time.

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*Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

I would also like to share something about this forced “social distancing,” staying away from one another, and not being able to have public Masses, from a Dominican Priest who worked with me at Saint Justin Martyr. He is now assigned to the Friary in New Orleans, in the Southern Province of the Dominicans.

*Friends, I am posting this at the request of a friend of mine. You may find it helpful if you have had a difficult time accepting the decisions to cancel public Masses by bishops. You remain in my prayers during this coronavirus pandemic. God bless you.*

*MESSAGE FROM FRIEND: Friar, can you please post this message for me on your FB page? I believe it can help others in the Church. This is my message: After many Catholic bishops decided to cancel all public Masses, I became really angry at them. I also became angry at the priests for obeying them. In my self-righteousness, I accused them all of betraying Christ, of betraying the Church and of betraying me and my family. In doing so, I cursed them, slandered them and mal-formed my children, family and friends, because they began to do the same as me after witnessing me. I'm sorry. I acted irresponsibly as a Catholic. I only became open to this truth, open to my error in judgment, after my elderly mother and my brother contracted the coronavirus. They're both deathly ill in the hospital at this time. This is difficult for me. I'm afraid of the thought of my children becoming infected. Having public Masses would greatly increase the number of infections. In humility and repentance, I recant all my slanderous accusations against our Catholic bishops and priests. Thanks to them for the many difficult and unpopular decisions that they have made for the common good of all people."*

It has been difficult to say the least ... and it will continue for several more weeks ... but we turn to “God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray.” He will help us.

I wish I could give a date for First Holy Communion, but I can't yet. All I know is that it will NOT be on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Please pray for our candidates and their families. Please pray for our teachers who are learning new skills through computer technology. Pray for all of us that the finances of the parish won't be too adversely affected. (Please donate, if you haven't already; we still have many bills to pay!) Finally, again repeated from last week, I want to thank our young adults and the ACTS community for stepping up to help our elderly and homebound parishioners.

***A Note of Support to our Elderly and Homebound Parishioners:*** *In these difficult times we must all band together and help one another in any way we can. If you find yourself in need of groceries, or have a prescription you need to have filled, but are unable to leave your home, please contact me, Deacon Sommer at 314.517.1718, and I can help you.*

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*I have a small group of volunteers, from the ACTS community and from our Young Adults Group, who are willing to help you out.  
And to all parishioners in general, if you know of anyone who might need help in these areas, let me know and I will contact them.*

*Thank you, and may God protect you in every way.*

*Deacon Carl Sommer*

*314.517.1718*

*sommer@Kenrick.edu"*

Please remember that our daily Mass is streamed on our website, **stmonicastl.org**, on our parish Facebook page, "st. monica catholic church – creve coeur MO," and on YouTube, every day at 9:30 A.M. Also please remember that the continuing faith formation sessions continue at 10:30 A.M. each Sunday morning on the young adults Facebook page, "Saint Monica Young Adults."

Finally, please continue to pray. Please continue to wash your hands! Please continue to not panic but believe in the love that the Lord has for us.

God's blessings to you all, Happy Easter. Please don't eat too much candy!

Fr Joe Weber



### **PRAYERS FOR HEALING, REMEMBER...**

Ruth Begnaud, Carolyn Burke,  
Al Callier, Mildred Dickherber,  
Shirley Dunker, Estelle Flanakin,  
Bill Guiot, Christina Hartley,

Bob Huseman, Ronald Kalupa, Nina Kelly,  
Gavin Lain, Gloria Luca, Patricia Mohan,  
Lourdes Manalo, Joan Middendorf, Ann Miller,  
Fred Mueller, Jack Powers, Michael Reinhardt,  
Mary Renner, Joseph Ritacco, Helen Sander,  
Dennis Sarris, Jeannett Sarris, Joe Schmitz,  
Rose Slee, Ellen Strickland, Joe Sonderman, and  
Fr Timothy Vowels.

### **OUR SYMPATHY TO**

Mick McDonough and his family on the death of his wife, Eileen McDonough. May she be living with God and may all be consoled.

### **PARISH OFFICE**

Even though the Parish Office is closed we will be making every effort to return your phone calls in a timely manner.

### **ELECTRONIC BULLETINS**

To receive the bulletin electronically visit <https://ebulletin.jspaluch.com>. On the right hand side search for St Monica by zip code, then click on it. Fill in your email address then click subscribe.



### **ST. PATRICK'S CASSEROLES**

Thank you very much to everyone who worked to make our April deliveries to St. Patrick Center successful. Despite some difficulties in finding ingredients, we were able to send 78 casseroles to St. Patrick's this month. As we work our way through the rest of this quarantine experience, please stay in touch about any ingredient shortages you encounter and please be cautious about your own health during this most unusual spring. Your generosity makes a difference.

### **FIAT WOMEN'S GROUP – LIVESTREAM EVENT**

All women are invited to join us virtually April 16, 8:00 A.M. to pray the rosary, followed by a talk by Dr. Edward Hogan, Academic Dean at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary 8:15 A.M. - 9 A.M. at

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