



"Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni,' which means 'Teacher'..." John 20:16

April 12, 2020
Resurrection of Our Lord

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Rise

Today, we share a joy, a joy of wonder, a joy that comes from within, because Christ is risen! Today, we share the same joy of the disciples to whom Mary Magdalene brought the good news that Jesus Christ is risen, and she has seen Him!

This joy of the Resurrection starts from a personal encounter with the Risen Christ. What did it take for Mary Magdalene's tears to give way to Easter joy? Nothing less than **meeting the risen Christ!** And so, the Easter Gospel is not only about life from death, but also about this **encounter** Mary has with the Lord. Jesus meets us – calls our name, opens our eyes, and invites us to see. He wants us to experience the joy of encountering Him and living for Him and not for ourselves. If we do this, we will experience the joy of being liberated from our sins which trap us in self-centeredness. No matter what may be happening in our lives, we can still experience spiritual joy through the love of God and living the way God made us to live, which is to live for others and for Him.

I realize that many families are going through difficult times right now. Some are dealing with illness in their house. Almost everyone knows someone who is sick, or is vulnerable to getting sick. There is also the worry, as the crisis lasts, of financial problems in each household as the economy suffers. Please remember, that our parish has established 'Emergency Fund' to help our parishioners in need. Therefore, if you need assistance please let me know! In a similar way, our parish is sharing that same hardship. With the extension of the social distance guidelines until the end of the month, our parish will have gone through seven weeks without a public Liturgy, and without our weekly offertory collection, which is the largest source of support for the parish. Typically, these seven weeks provide about one-third of the parish's annual income. It would be hard for most households to suffer such a loss.

Therefore, I ask you to please support your parish during this time of need. We will get through this crisis and come out on the other side, but our parish needs to pay its bills as much as possible now. Of course, if your personal financial hardship prevents you from contributing at your normal level or at all, I certainly understand and I pray for you. But for those that are able, please do what you can, now, to help.

One day soon, an announcement will be made that we can publicly celebrate the Divine Liturgy again. I look forward to that day, and to welcoming you back into church. It will be a joyous day, and we will both appreciate seeing each other more than ever, and as we sit in church we will give thanks again for Christ's gift of the Church to us!

My fervent prayer is that our Resurrected and Living Lord may bestow his peace and grace upon you and your loved ones, upon our community, our nation and the world! May God bless you and keep you!



V. Shevchuk

Sincerely yours,
Fr. Vsevolod Shevchuk