



St. Charles Borromeo Church

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Dear Parishioners of St. Charles,

Peace and God's love!

We are glad that things are finally opening again as the Covid vaccinations are being administered. As a result, many of our parishioners are beginning to return to church. Remember, we couldn't gather for the celebration of Easter in 2020. Easter occurred at a strange and unprecedented time for all of us last year. *Don't forget to come back!* We have greatly missed having all of you present in our church to celebrate the Eucharist together.

Even during a worldwide pandemic when church doors have sometimes been closed, Christ has been here. Even though we have had limited access to Holy Communion, Christ has been here, and Christ has been present to each one of us wherever we have been. Your parish, St. Charles has been here! Even when we sin or ignore his commands to love one another, Christ is here. Even in the darkest moments of our lives, when we are experiencing our own dying and rising, Christ is here. From age to age, we give thanks to God for the abiding presence of Christ.

In the ups and downs of life during the past year, we have remained united and strong in our faith. Perhaps the challenges of the last year have allowed us to encounter Jesus in ways we could not have imagined. Whatever betrayal or pain that we carry, we have learned we can bring them to the weary, wounded, and resurrected hands of Jesus. He knows our burdens and feels our pain. Our souls receive strength and refreshment when we stay close to Jesus.

And so, specific to our journey of faith, it is our understanding that we are an Easter people who are living in a Good Friday world. In other words, we believe that Christ's death on the cross transforms our suffering so that by his resurrection we gain the promise of eternal life. Living in the here and now, despite the suffering and evil still present in the world, we are called to be active witnesses to our faith. Every moment of our lives gives us a chance to identify with the kinds of persons we encounter in the passion narratives and the Resurrection stories. May we resolve to continue to draw closer to Christ, extending his love and mercy to others in the same way he has extended them to us. Let us be a sign of hope in a world that often falls prey to despair.

It is the risen Lord who gathers us together around his table to listen to the sacred stories about our faith, and then gives himself to us in the form of bread and wine, as he did with his disciples on the night before he died. We share in the life of the risen Christ now, and until Christ comes again.

The St. Charles parish community is here with you and for you! We are grateful for your continued financial support during the worst months of the pandemic. Be assured of my prayers for all of you. On the back of this letter is a full listing of our services for Holy Week and Easter. To all of you who feel comfortable in doing so, please return to worship with us as a community, confident that we are following all safety procedures recommended by the CDC, the State of Maryland and the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

May the Peace of our Risen Lord be with you all. Happy Easter!

Father Canisius Tah