



# ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD  
JOSHUA 24:15

Easter 2021

Dear St Paul of the Cross Parishioners,

I was hoping and praying that we would be able to celebrate Easter year as we have always done – with a full church. Unfortunately, that is not going to happen. And yet, the spirit of Easter will not be dampened because Christ is risen. His resurrection gives us reason to hope. No pandemic, no tragedy, and not even death can take away the joy that the Risen Lord gifts His followers. And so I invite you to experience the extraordinary hope and joy that this feast brings to us. I pray that this Easter will be a festival of joy and hope in your personal lives and in the life of your families. I have prayed for you all through Lent and will continue to do so during the Easter season. Please pray for the parish and for me.

As you know, the days including and following Palm Sunday are the high holy days as they recall the central mysteries of our faith. Come and celebrate the gift of the Eucharist and the commandment of love on Holy Thursday, the self-sacrifice of Jesus on Good Friday, and the gift of new life in Christ's resurrection on Holy Saturday. These three days draw us deeper into the mystery of Christ and form us into the people of Easter. Join our catechumens and candidates as they receive the Easter sacraments during the vigil. We also have seven Masses on Easter Sunday.

Included with this letter is our Easter envelope sent with the hope that you will assist your parish in her ministry to you and others. Our Easter collection, just like our Christmas collection, constitutes a significant portion of our annual budget. During this pandemic year our finances have been under stress and anything you can do to reduce that strain will be much appreciated. Please know that your generous gift will bless many in the community and in our neighborhood.

Easter always stirs up joy in my heart because our Christian faith was formed by Easter stories. We hear about the risen Lord's appearances to the disciples when He soothes their fears and instills hope into their hearts. The tragedies and pains of our lives need an infusion of hope from the Lord. When we look at the terrible things that take place around us, we wonder about the future. We can, however, hope because the Lord is risen. He has conquered sin and death. Christ is risen, alleluia! May you experience this hope everyday of your life!

Invoking the abundant blessings of the Risen Lord on you and your loved ones,

Yours warmly,

Fr. Brito

Pastor