

Friday of the Second Week of Easter, April 16, 2021

Dear Ascension Parishioners,

Happy Easter! He is risen, alleluia! While Easter day was some time ago, we celebrate this mystery of faith for a while – 50 days in all. As the people of Ascension, we are uniquely tied to the resurrection. All Catholics celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ at every Mass. As the people of Ascension, we especially celebrate the reality that Christ took the grace of the resurrection one step further and Ascended into heaven, taking humanity with Him! With the trust that Jesus has not left us to our own devices, we turn to Him now as we look to the future and what God has in mind for our community. Our world, nation, and city have seen a lot in the past 15 months living with Covid. Ascension has remained strong, resisting, with steadfast faith, the growing apathy of the world.

*The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ Jesus will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little. To him be dominion forever. Amen. – [1Peter 5:10-11](#) –*

Together, we are following after Him! We recognize that our hearts are open to God's call for a complete gift of self through the grace of Jesus Christ. We say yes to Christ to the point of a somewhat uncomfortable vulnerability – a vulnerability that reminds us that we can and are called to truly rely on one another. I ask you, fellow disciples of Christ, to trust Him enough to be vulnerable in your generosity. It is by this generosity that we have in the past year been able to:

- Continue offering quality, nationally-recognized education to our students who look to Ascension to help prepare them for the uncertain world beyond these walls.
- Continue live-streaming prayer and song with noticeable skill and availability. For this reason, others keep coming to us to learn more about how we stream our Masses and other events!
- Offer formational opportunities for all ages, reaching out in an ever-increasing way through digital communication.
- Continue to reach out, providing a helping hand up to those who have not fared as well as others through these tumultuous times.
- Make a sizable effort to compensate our parish staff, teachers, and faculty with a just wage. We are committed to meeting Archdiocesan guidelines on wages and valuing our employees' passion, skill, and commitment to this community.

We have done all of this while remaining committed to sound financial decision-making and management. As your pastor, I am aware that these are difficult and uncertain times. I hope you and your family continue to grow in the trust that this community is in this together. We will support one another in good times and in bad, sickness and health, striving to always see Christ in one another. I also hope that you find new ways to get involved at Ascension. As we look to a post-Covid world, it is right and just that we exhibit generosity with every aspect of our lives, especially in our service at Mass and to the community.

Together, We Follow After HIM!

Rev. Adam B. Carrico - Pastor