

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Kalida, OH: Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19, 2020

Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S. In Residence: Fr. Elmer Wurth, M.M.

Thoughts from Fr. Mark

Happy Easter, everyone. During my priesthood, I would take the time to say Happy Easter every year for seven straight weeks when I visit the stores. But not this year. This year is definitely different. I get to say Happy Easter from a television screen. It is not the same, as there is no response back. Through this social distancing phase of the coronavirus, I realize how important people are to my spirituality. I often see the face of God through the face of others. I miss praying with all of you. I miss the joyful exchange of children's high five. When I do anoint someone, it is behind a mask with glasses on. My sight is blurry as my glasses steam up and words of prayer are often muffled. I miss celebrating God's presence in the sacraments.

But...there is joy and the presence of God during this pandemic. On Holy Saturday, hundreds of people came to church to do a chalk walk. Instead of a church crawl, people of all ages took time to express their Easter spirit through sidewalk chalk artwork. It was invigorating and made my Holy Saturday...all day. People came early in the morning and arrived late at night to say Happy Easter in a variety of ways. There was social distancing, but a united spirit in choosing to celebrate the Lord's conquering of death. Scripture verses were interspaced throughout the artwork. Phrases of hope and pictures of joy made Easter come alive for myself and for the hundreds of participants in the chalk walk. Some of those pictures stayed with me throughout this week. I might not have been able to say Happy Easter in Walmart this year, but the artwork spoke it back loud and clear. One phrase that keeps coming back to me is that when Jesus said that "it" was over, meant that He had only begun.

That "life has the victory" has expressed itself in so many ways this past week. So many people have expressed their desire to help to make someone's life better. People dropped off some emergency funds to help people who might have lost their jobs during this chaotic time. If there is a way to help someone in need, please let me know so that life will have the victory. Jesus did not just come to open heaven for us, He rose so that life would become a little more heavenly here. As I see people keeping the social distancing order, I see the desire to be united by a smile, a wave or in the future time truly spent with one another. I see families walking together and playing in their yards. Throughout all this coronavirus time, I also see our communities getting stronger with God's love uniting us. We need to live and not allow death or a virus to have the victory. Jesus has shown us a much better way.

Two points of interest that I would like to bring up here. This Sunday, besides being Divine Mercy Sunday, was also supposed to be First Communion Sunday at Continental. First Communion was scheduled for St. Michael's the first Sunday of May. These obviously will not happen. We will schedule these celebrations as soon as we get the all clear from Bishop Thomas. I think that we have discovered, because of our not being able to receive the Lord in the Eucharist, how precious of a gift the Lord's presence is in the reception of His Body and Blood at Communion. Say a prayer for all our First Communion students and their families.

The second point is something that a number of people have brought up from a practical point of view. A number of people have asked about our weekly collections since there

has been no celebration of Mass and no collection plate passed. From my point of view, the health of everyone is the most important issue so that we can come back together as a family. We stay healthy from a spiritual point of view by praying. We stay healthy from a physical point of view by not joining together to pray at this time. I would like to thank our heritage and present parishioners who have made our parishes healthy financially so that we do not have to concentrate on finances at this time. If asking for money at this time would make someone feel put out because of their being off work, it would be the wrong thing to do. The people of our parishes are so good that if anything would be needed, people come through. Thank you so much. Once we are back together, things will even out. If someone wants to mail their envelopes in, they will be gladly accepted. Finances are on the back burner of priorities for now in the midst of the coronavirus. Let us love the Lord and one another. You are worth so much more than silver or gold or thousands of sparrows. Can you tell I miss all of you?

Have a great week, everyone, and Happy Easter! **Fr. Mark**

Mass Intentions/Schedule for TV and Facebook

MONDAY, APRIL 20

NOON End to Covid-19

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

8:00 AM Jim Warnecke (HN)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

8:00 AM

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

7:30 PM Ralph & Dolores Verhoff

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

8:00 AM Jerry & Dorothy Unverferth

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 *Live on Channel 70 & Facebook*

1:30 PM NM Erhart & Luttfriing

4:30 PM Successful Cancer Treatment

In Thanksgiving for 50th Wedding Ann.

Tom L. Siebeneck, John Phillips

Len & Dolores Bockrath, Jim Hamilton

Don Selhorst, Jeannie Buchholz

Wilbur & Mildred Remlinger

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 AM Replay of Mass on Channel 70

11:00 AM Replay of Mass on Channel 70

*Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays at Continental
St. John's on Facebook.com/kalidastmichaels*



Our Condolences

The Funeral Mass for
JIM WARNECKE

was held on

Saturday, April 18.

Please include

Jim and his family

in your prayers.

Rosary & Reconciliation

The rosary will be broadcast on Monday at 1:30 p.m. and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on Channel 70 and Facebook, and Drive-Up Confession will be on Thursday at 6:45 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m., in the church handicap parking lot.

K of C Charity Campaign

First turn-in is nearly past and the LAST turn-in is May 8. These tickets provide over half the \$5 cost for our local charities and the balance for K of C Ohio statewide charities, notably among them, seminarians. As you watch mass, remember seminarians! If any of you Knights out there still have them on the refrigerator, please consider getting them in the mail with check to K of C Council 5669 to PO Box 138, Kalida. Last year, Kalida area had a winner for the top prize, so who says thunder doesn't strike twice. If you want tickets, send a check for \$5 each, along with name/address & we'll fill them out for you (like take out)!



Cemetery Cleanup

To prepare for the mowing season, please remove all Christmas decorations and any objects around the footer in the grass. Thanks for your help!

Holy Name Tickets

Please turn in any money and tickets sold to either Nick Schulte or Mark Warnecke, as there may be checks sitting around, needing to be cashed. Thanks!

Needed Items for Food Pantry in Ottawa:

Juice, boxes of potatoes, mashed potatoes, bars of soap, toilet paper, cake mix, cereal (no big bags), rice cereal (Rice Krispies and Rice Chex), crackers (such as saltines and Town House)

Coats Left at Kalida K of C

Many coats have been left at the K of C Hall. To claim, contact John Schulte (419-890-8851).



Have you checked out St. Michael's Facebook page lately? Here's what you can find...

CHURCH CHALK: As Fr. Mark mentioned in his column, hundreds of people were on the church grounds on Holy Saturday to decorate the church steps and sidewalk for Easter. The rain may have washed away the artwork, but the memories of that day will remain with us forever. You could feel God's presence as parishioners, although keeping their distance, were united in the spirit of the day and their love of the Lord. Thanks to all involved. View hundreds of pictures at facebook.com/kalidastmichaels.

TOURS OF CHURCH: Fr. Mark and Kevin were busy this past week giving viewers a unique look at the church tower and church attic. If you're afraid of heights, it might be hard to watch, but it's worth a look!

FR. ELMER'S JOKE OF THE DAY: Ever the storyteller, Fr. Elmer shares a daily joke to brighten your day.



Seniors in the Spotlight!

In collaboration with Kalida High School, we will be displaying photos of our seniors on the church's new outdoor sign in the upcoming weeks. Send your favorite senior picture (along with your name) to: stmich@bright.net. Just make sure it is a large file, so that it displays well on the large sign. Make sure you get a response from us so that you know your picture was received. Spread the word!



Upcoming Wedding

*Kevin Erhart &
Alexandria Luttfriing*

will be married on
April 25, 2020.

Please include
them in your
prayers.