

# St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Kalida, OH: Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

**Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S. In Residence: Fr. Elmer Wurth, M.M.**  
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## Easter Thoughts from Fr. Mark

Happy Easter, everyone. I've been trying to get in the right spirit for Easter and it is extremely difficult this year. Fr. Elmer and I colored eggs earlier in the week. He is getting good at it. This is four years in a row that he has partaken in this activity. We usually have a couple of families from our parishes to help but this year is definitely different. There are no children, no card games or laughter (well maybe some laughter as we recall Fr. Elmer's latest joke). Easter for me has always been about recognizing the beauty and then seizing it. As a child, it was about the eggs in the front yard, but as I got older, I knew that there was beauty that God puts forth in the Savior that the world might not find.

It is Holy Thursday morning as I write this. There are now decorations in and out of church to set the stage for the beginning of the Triduum. As I look at the decorations, I want to set up a table on the church steps with a sign to say "Everyone is welcome." Jesus ate this special meal with his friends. There was no putting on of airs. Tax collectors, fishermen, saints, sinners and Jesus, Himself, were all there. And Jesus washed their feet to make sure that they got it. "It" is not about who sits where or who is first or last. It is about communion.

I believe that is why the Church celebrates with a Triduum or three holiest of days. Communion takes work and celebration. Thursday celebrates that there is a Passover from slavery to freedom, from friendship to love, from bread and wine to body and blood. Change is hard and for those in the upper room to see a friend turn into a betrayer must have been hard. It must have been hard to see someone they loved be seen as a criminal and sent to trial and be sentenced to death. There must have been guilt as the apostles were nowhere to be found. Yet Jesus called them to communion.

Friday will be a tough day. I like that a thousand people come to venerate the cross. I'm not alone in putting Him there, but am not alone in realizing what Jesus' dying on the cross did for me. There will be six people in church this year and the bishop made it clear that the celebrant was the only one to kiss the cross. I feel alone, and maybe that is a good thing to realize that He would die on the cross for just one, and to Him, it would be worth it. For that one lost sheep, Jesus would give up his life so that that one lamb would be in communion. Good Friday will be very much more reflective this year, on a very personal basis.

Saturday is a day of waiting. I think of the women who waited to come back to the tomb to anoint Jesus one more time. They had to wait till the Sabbath was over. I imagine what went through their minds. "Who will roll the stone back for us?" was a real issue. Maybe they thought they could do it together. Little did they know that there was something so much bigger than a stone to think about. Life was about to change in ways that they could have never imagined. They had given up on a dream and now the dream became alive. They wanted to share this dream, this life, with whomever would listen. A small, scared community was about to become a whole different community, as they recognized Him in the breaking of the bread and sharing heartfelt scripture. He was not in the tomb, but in communion in their lives.

Easter Sunday was always a day of life. I try to put myself at that first Easter. Would I have believed or would I have had to go to the tomb, myself? Would an empty tomb be enough or would I need to put my finger into a nail print? Blessed are those who believed and didn't see, so that they could help us who need to see to believe. It is nice to have a communion of believers to help us in our faithless times. God had faith in us that we would believe in His son. God made the first move to be in communion with us. We just need to embrace this Jesus who would show us that life will always have the victory and will always be into eternity. In these days of air hugs, this might be the Easter to embrace communion with the God who shares His son with us and all the people whom He would live, die and rise for. I'm not sure about you, but I'm ready for a group hug.

One last thought about Easter: Go fly a kite. In our family, we always got kites for Easter. If the weather was right we would go out to the pasture field and take in the wonder of flying. As a small child, I imagined being taken away to worlds I never knew, as I held onto the kite string. Easter should do that to all of us. The world needs this new kind of world. As we hold onto the Risen Lord, our world becomes new. Let Him take you there. He is Risen, as He said.

Have a blessed Easter, everyone.

*Fr. Mark*

## Mass Intentions/Schedule for TV and Facebook MONDAY, APRIL 13

**11:00 AM** Funeral Mass for Al Knueven

## TUESDAY, APRIL 14

**8:00 AM** Roger Buss

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

**8:00 AM** Connie Miller

## THURSDAY, APRIL 16

**7:30 PM** Al Knueven (HN)

## FRIDAY, APRIL 17

**8:00 AM** Parishioners

## SATURDAY, APRIL 18 *Live on Channel 70 & Facebook*

**4:30 PM** L/D William Ellerbrock Family  
L/D Virgil & Clara Horstman Family  
Harold Barnhart, Louis Verhoff  
Ray, Dorothea & Ron Aversch  
Dorothy Miller, Don Holtkamp & Family  
Carolyn Unverferth

## SUNDAY, APRIL 19

**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*

## First Communion...

will be held as soon as public Masses are allowed. We cannot set a definite date at this time. Parents, continue helping your child prepare and pray as a family.

## Vacation Bible School...

is scheduled for July 13-16. Our planning team is putting together Rocky Railway...Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. Registration forms will be available in May.



## Our Condolences

The Funeral Mass  
for **AL KNUEVEN**

will be held on  
Monday, April 13,  
at 11:00 a.m.

Please include  
Al and his family  
in your prayers.

## Parents of Our Second Graders

Dynamic Catholic is offering the "Blessed" series for free on their website. We use this program to prepare our children for First Communion. Since we cannot have class, please take the time to watch with your child. The workbook can be downloaded for free, as well. Loyola Press, Christ Our Life textbook, is another resource for preparing for First Communion. Go to [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). Choose Faith Formation Programs for Grades K-8. Then chose Christ Our Life, Family Resources, Grade 2. Under Unit 4 Review, you will find Unit 4 At Home Edition. You can download "Jesus Gives Us the Gift of Himself." This section covers all the information that is in their textbook. Please take the time to review with your child since we can't cover it in the class with them. If you have questions, please contact Connie at [cclleemput@bright.net](mailto:cclleemput@bright.net).

## Religious Education at Home

Our textbook series, *Christ Our Life* for grades 1-4 and *Finding God* for Grades 5 and 6 is available online for free. Loyola Press offers educational materials for all grade levels, including Kindergarten. My hope is that our families are taking time to help their children grow in their Catholic faith. Please take advantage of these resources. *Connie*

## Family Resources on St. Michael Website

We've rebuilt the FAMILY OF FAITH RESOURCE CENTER, which is located on the Parish Website ([stmichaelskalida.org](http://stmichaelskalida.org)) just to the left of the "Recent Bulletins" at the top. Just click on "FAMILY" to dive in. This is designed to help families through the struggles the pandemic continues to cause. CHECK IT OUT. We also want suggestions to add to the site. If you have run across something you think others would benefit from, get the idea to Connie Cleemput at [cclleemput@bright.net](mailto:cclleemput@bright.net) to keep this growing.

## Elastic Needed

Anyone who sews and is not making masks at this time and has 1/4-inch elastic to donate, please consider dropping off at the elevator entrance of church. Place in front of the statue of our Blessed Mother Mary. There are several women who are in need. Thanks!

## 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!

## 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.

## 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!

## Shoe Collection

Kalida Elementary School is still collecting gently worn, used, & new shoes. Donation boxes located at church exits.



## Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that  
You are present  
in the most  
Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You  
above all things  
and I desire  
to receive  
You into my soul.  
Since I cannot  
now receive  
You sacramentally,  
come at least  
spiritually  
into my heart.  
I embrace You  
as if You were  
already there,  
and unite  
myself wholly  
to You.  
Never permit  
me to be  
separated  
from You.  
Amen.



Fr. Elmer  
and  
Fr. Mark  
got into the  
Quarantine  
Easter Egg  
Coloring  
this past  
Tuesday.