



Easter April 1, 2018

An Easter Message from our Pastor

Dear sisters and brothers, SHALOM.

One sentence that we hear repeated so often in the Eastertide is, “Peace be with you.” Every time Jesus appears to his apostles he greets them, “Shalom aleichem!” ‘Peace’ is a word which is used often in the Eucharistic celebration:

- **In the Gloria:** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth;
- **In the prayers after Our Father:** Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day and we are called to share that peace with each other...
- **We end the “Lamb of God”** saying, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace”;
- And finally, **in dismissing the congregation**, the priest says, “Go in the peace”.

‘Peace’ features so much in the prayers and the vocabulary of most world religions and in secular conversations. As is the case with many of the words and phrases that we are most familiar with, it is possible for us to go on uttering this word ‘peace’, without ever reflecting on what it means! The dictionary definition of peace is simple enough: “quiet; tranquility; mental calm – but how exactly does this apply in the context of our faith in the Risen Christ?

1. **“Peace be with you” is an invitation** to the apostles to be calm. Do not be afraid! When Jesus was hanging on the cross it seemed that God was not in control of human history. This brought about a great fear among the disciples. But the resurrection of Jesus – which is also an experience of vindication of the just – clearly demonstrates to the apostles the fact that God is in Control. Be at peace! This is the first meaning of Jesus’ greeting even for us today.

2. **“Peace be with you” is also a blessing:** Shalom! Shalom means wholeness, wellbeing. Jesus seems to say, I have conquered death, believe in me, and you will experience this same wellbeing. The Easter narratives and the liturgy itself are full of symbols of life. During the Easter vigil two important symbols were used: water and fire. Water (of the rain) and Fire (of the Sun) sustain life on planet earth. The greeting of Shalom then is an invitation from Jesus to participate in the fullness of life promised by Him. A promise of wellbeing!

3. **“Peace be with you” is also a challenge:** to live that peace! As Christians, our very presence in the world is to bring shalom to our neighborhood – our homes, our places of work, our schools, and in the streets! During the Eucharistic celebration when the priest invites us to “offer each other the sign of peace,” it is only symbolic of our call to share that peace with others. It might be easy to shake hands with the one who happens to be next to us during the mass, but as I do that, am I willing to share my peace with that person out there, whom I find so difficult to love?

Let this season of Easter and this Eucharistic celebration offer us a possibility of enjoying peace: to believe in God who is in control of our history; to participate in the life promised by the Lord; and to be a sign of peace in the world. Let us pray for peace in our hearts, in our homes and in our nations. Let us continue to pray for Syria and other war prone regions of our world. **Peace be with you.** *With Easter blessings, Fr. Raja SDB*

ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH
13503-40 Street, Edmonton
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Last Sunday’s Collection
\$ 5,124.00
Together We Serve: \$235.00

Parish Priest: Rev. Raja SDB
Deacon Jose Huevo
Mia Turlock Pastoral Assistant
Theresa Wile Pastoral Assistant

PRAYER CORNER
Sandy Gow, Priscilla Lajeunesse,
Josie Mitchell, Rose Auburn,
Bernie Houle

HOLY SATURDAY:

March 31 9:00 pm **EASTER VIGIL: Blessing of the fire, “Exultet”, Glory to God, Mass of the Resurrection.**

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1 9:30 am For All St. John Bosco Parishioners
11:30 am For All St. John Bosco Parishioners

Wednesday, April 4 9:00 am For + Colin Hanson by Fern and Carmen Morin
Thursday April 5 9:00 am For All deceased members of Simoes and Rocha family by Agatha and Max
Friday, April 6 7:00 pm Community Mass Intentions

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Saturday, April 7 5:00 pm For + Jaime & + Maria Araujo by Mike and Estrela Pereira
Sunday, April 8 9:30 am For All deceased members of the Simoes and Rocha families by Ron and Cecilia
11:30 am For All St. John Bosco Parishioners

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PARISHIONERS who have journeyed together in the RCIA program since September to become full members of the Church. *Pablo Hernandez, Daryle Proust, Leah Oliveira, Wayne Leverington, Melanie Botelho.* May you continue to live your new journey in the Catholic Faith with love and joy!!! God Bless you!!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Tuesday, April 3 7:00 pm RCIA
Thursday, April 5 9:00 am St. Elizabeth Seton School here for Mass



Sunday, April 8

K.C. PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Everyone welcome after both masses

BAPTISM: Are you expecting a new member in your family? If you wish to have your child baptized, you will be required to attend one baptism preparation meeting, which is held on the last Thursday of each month. Please call Theresa at the parish office.

MARRIAGE: If you are engaged and wish to be married you will be required to attend a marriage prep course (offered here at the parish) and complete necessary papers. Please contact Mia at the parish office.

HEARING, REFLECTING AND LIVING THE WORD OF GOD

HEARING THE WORD: On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and he believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he to rise from the dead.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD: As your *Alleluia*s ring out today, feel the spirit of rejoicing in every muscle and every cell of your body. For a moment, let go and feel what it is to be fully and completely basking in the glow of God's grace. So often we hold back from immersing ourselves in the liturgy. Wholeheartedly, allow the spirit of celebration to take over. As you sing and proclaim *Alleluia*, really mean it.

How do you like to celebrate: Did you notice how the church looked different today?

LIVING THE WORD: As Mary ran to spread the Good News she didn't stop for bite or to chat, but immediately went to the disciples who found it too good to be true and had to see for themselves. Ask family members if they have heard anything that sounds too good to be true and invite them to share it. Perhaps they will want to tell others too.

