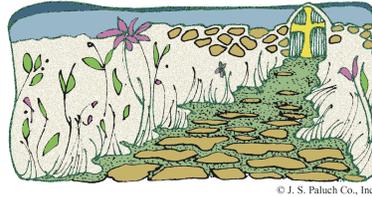




St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

Reflections with Fr. Mark

April 15, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

I embrace the Gospel given to us today in the two disciples encountering “Jesus” on the road to Emmaus. Of course, they did not recognize Him. We know the story and we know the result. It is the same with us today! We are on our journey and we often walk with Jesus in our midst; but, do we recognize Him? I think there are times we truly feel we are speaking with Him and our hearts are on fire. Then, there are those times, perhaps these times, where we find it difficult to recognize Him. As our reading from the Acts of the Apostles refers to “confidence,” let us be confident that Jesus walks with us even in this, our journey, today! May our strong faith be the cause of lifting someone else today to enjoy the Easter resurrection.

Today we are learning the meaning of patience. As our civil and religious leaders look at what possibilities might lay ahead, we know it is going to be a lengthy road. While some bicker about when to open normalcy in business and living, we know by now that there is going to be a “new normal” at least in the years ahead. Social distancing guidelines may likely be in place until 2022. In California, we hear the date of May 15 being thrown around; however, for gatherings of large groups, such as our church gatherings, it will be much longer, possibly until August. While this is an inconvenience and burden, we need to embrace it as opportunity of being on our inner journey to Emmaus. Jesus walks with us in our difficulty and we need to invite Him in to stay with us and allow Him to feed us.

I would like to update you about some information discussed in my webinar with the Archbishop this afternoon. We will continue to abide by the directives of our health officers who have extended our “Stay at Home” orders until May 15 (at least). I NEED TO EMPHASIZE HERE...WE ARE BEING TOLD THAT MAY 15 WILL PROBABLY BE EXTENDED EVEN FURTHER...POSSIBLY UNTIL LATE SUMMER. The current liturgical directives remain in place, therefore, no sacraments are being celebrated. The Archbishop has extended this suspension until at least May 15 and the obligation of attending Sunday Mass has been extended until at least then, as well.

Furthermore, the Ordinations of priests and deacons currently scheduled for the beginning of June are up in the air. Confirmations in parishes are postponed. Confirmations may be delegated to the Pastor to do in the future for each parish. Financial concerns across the Archdiocese and in each parish and school are of great consternation as these directives may restrict what we can do as a church community for months to come, even after we can open. For example, I am hearing that the “social distancing” may need to be in effect until 2022, which would greatly affect what we can do by celebrating Eucharist, meetings, etc. There is much discussion on so many levels regarding all aspects of our Church and the future of what we can do each day. I ask for your continued prayers for those of us serving you here at St. Luke under these constraints and for the entire Archdiocese of Los Angeles. These are very difficult moments for all of us!

Our Easter journey will continue together from afar and we need to pray for each other. We invite you to celebrate with your priests as we celebrate Sunday Mass each weekend and invite you to join us in a spiritual communion. The Mass

can be viewed on Sundays at your convenience. Be assured of our thoughts and prayers for you as we stand at the altar praying for your needs.

May we continue the journey, never remaining the same, but always allowing the Holy Spirit alive within the living Body of Christ, the Church.

Happy Easter! He is Risen! Alleluia!

Fr. Mark

Watch Mass from St. Luke at Home: The recordings are available on our Parish website, www.stluketemplecity.org, and sent through our e-communications. The services will remain posted so you may view at your convenience.

Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications: <https://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19>