

Apr. 12, 2020

Thoughts from the pastor,

Happy Easter! I hope you have had a holy Holy Week. It seems like we are all in an alternate universe. Very few things, from our lives last year, apply to our current situation. Most of those of you who are working, are doing things totally different. Those of you who have had to cut your hours or have had your job put on hold are wondering how long you can hold things together like this. Many of you have had ways of dealing with life, from day-to-day, that just aren't possible anymore. You might have had your favorite restaurant or other establishment to relax and find a group of friends to brainstorm with. You might have enjoyed a lot of activities with your children that took you all over the city and beyond. With those, you would have been driving all over to get from one activity to another in a type of mania of activities. The children would have been stressing between dealing with all that the teachers are trying to teach them, and how to get along with all the different classmates they face every day. There might have been crabbing about how boring it was to go to Mass.

Right now, you are in another reality. A microscopic little entity has been multiplying and changing how we do things. Now most of us have to deal with very few people. Some have only their family. Others are alone. Many of you are going at a slower pace than you have experienced since you were infants. For many of you, the huge part of the gap in your life is that you can't receive Communion. You have felt like you are being distanced from the Lord. Your TV and/or your computer have provided you with your strongest connection to the Mass you love and miss.

In this alternate universe, you have made adjustments. I don't know what your adjustments are but here are mine. I have been blessed with being able to say a Mass every day. It is one of those perks of being a priest. And yet my life is different. My workload is about one quarter of what I am used to experiencing. I am not attending all of those meetings that used to be essential. I am not in the classrooms or spending much time preparing people for Sacraments. I have been filling that gap with far more religious programming. This is the time of year when tree pollen drives me crazy so I can't go out as much to exercise, but when I do, I wear a mask for the pollen, and I pray and read, just like I do on cruise ships. I am constantly thinking about all the people I have been working with over the years, and wondering how their lives are going in this alternate universe.

The good news is that there really is only one reality, and that is the one that God made. He is still the almighty and loving God who has saved us. He is the one who sent His Son to die for us, so that our greatest fear could be conquered, the fear of death. This is still the main thing we are to be realizing as we go through all of this. That is why it is so amazing that this has happened during Lent, and now went through Holy Week. But after what we have been going

through, it is even more amazing that we now celebrate the Easter Season, just as we start looking for things to start coming back to normal. I just hope that we will be facing a new normal. Just like the apostles after experiencing the Resurrection, we will have been changed by the experience. We will look at life with fresh eyes. We will know that the Lord is here for us and has a plan that involves us being in the real alternate reality of heaven.

Just two notes of business. I will not be having Bible Study on Easter morning. If you are behind in your readings, you have a week to catch-up, because I will still be doing only 7 days of readings on Divine Mercy Sunday. For those of you who are caught up, I suggest reading all four accounts of the Passion of our Lord in the Gospels. That would be Mt. 26 on, Mk. 14 on, Lk. 22 on, and Jn. 13 on.

Second, we will not have a Divine Mercy celebration at STM this year. It will not be possible to meet the requirements, of Confession and Communion. You are encouraged to watch the one at Christ the King, which will be mentioned in next week's bulletin and on our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stmomaha>.

And last but not least, remember that Easter, just like Christmas, is not a day, but a season. Live it until we are celebrating Pentecost. By then I hope we are back in church for Mass together.

God bless you all,  
Fr. Frank Baumert, pastor

