

Come find the peace within!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope you saw the banners over the doors and hanging from the choir loft as you came into church today. *Come find the peace within!* We first posted these banners at the beginning of Lent as an invitation not only to a special season but to what we hope our parish offers all who come to pray with us, to inquire about our faith and to join us in celebrating what we celebrate every day of the year: Jesus is risen and he is the Lord of our lives! *Come find the peace within!*

The invitation admits of two readings. First, come inside our church and find the peace that's offered there: the peace of Jesus, the peace the world cannot give, the peace that is only God's to share with us. *Come find the peace within!* The same phrase also invites you to seek, to discern, to discover, to find the peace within your heart, the peace God intends for each of us to have. *Come find the peace within!*

In times like ours marked by such divisions in our nation, such acrimony on both sides of the political aisle, such tragedy wrought by war, arms, poverty and hunger born of neglect and an international hunger for power gone off the rails - there's hardly a soul on the face of the earth that doesn't thirst for that peace that only comes from God, that only God can give. I believe that the seeds of God's peace are planted in every human heart: the work that's ours is to nurture those seeds to life, to blossom and to harvest and be shared with God's children everywhere, each child a sister or brother of ours in God's family. *Come find the peace within!*

Whatever brings you to Easter Mass this year, please know how very welcome you are – and even *more* so if you've been away from our prayer for one reason or another. *Come find the peace within!* Our reunion with those we don't see all the time greatly enhances the joy of holiday gatherings in our family gatherings and this holds just as true in the family, in the household of our faith and prayer.

Whatever brought you to home to church this year, by whatever route you came to Holy Family Parish to pray, let this be a time for all of us to renew our relationship with Jesus and with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the church. *Come find the peace within!*

This bulletin carries announcements and current parish news but it's only one way our parish reaches out to you to keep you informed and up to date. I'm pleased to announce this week that we have a new and improved website which I invite you to check out and bookmark so that we can keep in touch with one another. Our web site still resides at **holyfamilyconcord.org** but it's newly redesigned with increased functionality and interactivity. The features on our former website are still there:

- Newly redesigned with increased functionality and interactivity (*We Share*, Fr. Fleming's blog, daily scripture readings, links to the Sunday bulletins).
- Now our many parish ministries each have their own page with detailed information about their work and ability to sign up online.
- You can now register for our faith formation programs online.
- The "get involved" tab now takes you to a link (community.holyfamilyconcord.org) that offers the ways to become meaningfully involved in the parish community: volunteer opportunities and sign ups, upcoming events and links to request help.
- There's also a page for FAQs about parish life and a page with staff photos and bios.

I hope you'll check out our parish website and become a frequent visitor - it's one of many doors through which you can enter the life of our parish, through which you can *Come find the peace within!*

If there's any way that I or anyone on our parish staff can be of service to you, please don't hesitate to be in touch with us. You can connect with us through the parish website or the old fashioned way by calling us at 978-369-7442 or writing us at our new mailing address: Holy Family Parish • P.O. Box 220 • Concord, MA 01742

Be sure of our prayers for you and your family and friends this Easter. Jesus is risen, he is our Lord and our life, he is our hope and our peace. He is risen throughout the whole of creation and in our parish community: *Come find the peace within!*

Peace,
Fr. Fleming