

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

As we know, all it takes is one day in the 70's, one daffodil or crocus pushing up from the ground, one robin perched on a branch, making jubilant music to assure us that no matter how deep the temperature dips, how heavy the rains or threatening the snow, we are moving onward, journeying forward to a glorious spring.

This week, in the middle of Lent, a season of penance, fast and abstinence, most of us will gather around the table for a traditional feast of corned beef and cabbage, listening to jigs and reels from "the old sod" not to look back to a wonderful past but to look forward and to journey onward to a Paschal Feast, an Easter celebration, a glorious proclamation of unending "Alleluias"

Last Wednesday, in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, surrounded by darkness and doom the Kyiv Classic Symphony Orchestra stepped into the daylight of Independence Square and courageously performed their national anthem, not to remind their people of the days of glory gone by but help them look forward to a glorious future that beckons them onward.

This Sunday, Jesus invites Peter, John and James to the mountain top where, together with Moses and Elijah, He appears in glory as they talk not about the past but about "his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem". After they were instructed by His Heavenly Father to "listen to him" they made their journey onward to His saving Death and glorious Resurrection.

Let us not delay. Let us not pause. Let us not retreat. Rather, let us together journey forward to the Festival Day that the Lord has made, to the Passover Meal of the Risen Christ so that the anthem awakening in our hearts and the singing rising from our souls will transfigure us all in glory.

"I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted and wait for the Lord."

Let us stand firm in the Lord.

*Father John*