



Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! I want to extend wishes of a beautiful and happy Easter to all parishioners, staff, and visitors who have gathered here at OLPH Church to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have now entered into the great season of Eastertide. May we all celebrate with great joy the promise of our new life in Christ, our Risen Lord. We indeed are sons and daughters of Hope (*In the midst of it all, my Hope is in God*).

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. The Lord Jesus, through his cross and resurrection, has destroyed the power of sin and death and brought us into His life. Christ has won for us victory over the grave. The Church in her wisdom asks us to keep this feast alive for fifty days. We need to reflect on this and just how much our Lord loves us. Easter is so much more than flowers, cards, Easter eggs, candy and even beautiful music. It is the historical event that gives ultimate meaning and purpose to our lives. Because Jesus died and rose from the dead, we no longer have to fear sin and death. The victory has been won in Christ. We celebrate Jesus who is our Paschal Lamb who died out of sheer love for us.

To those who have been away from the Church, during this pandemic, I sincerely welcome you home this Easter. It is my fervent hope and prayer that by worshipping with us, and celebrating Holy Mass, you will encounter the Risen Christ. In the spirit of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and Wilton Cardinal Gregory, I too, extend to you the love and mercy of our Risen Lord and sincerely invite you back into the fold of Holy Mother Church and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. We pray for Christians, everywhere at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them: I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. The Lord does not disappoint those of us who take a step toward Jesus, and come to realize that he is already there like the father of the prodigal son, waiting for us with open arms.

Holy week started off with an awesome celebration of Palm-Passion Sunday with many from our parish community coming together to make a dramatic “Passion of Our Lord Jesus” felt in our church with an awesome procession. I thank All those involved in orchestrating and participating in a spirit-moving proclamation on Palm/Passion Sunday, that reminded us of our Lord’s suffering and death in Jerusalem and making it so meaningful for those worshipping at OLPH with us.

I am grateful for musicians and cantor, for assisting us as we entered into our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection through the gift of beautiful liturgical music. I greatly appreciate the extra time and dedication they have given for the last two+ years. Thanks to all for all the work that goes into Holy Week and Easter, flowers, banners and decorations in the sanctuary. It takes us dedicated to the Lord and our call to discipleship and stewardship, offering our best to him. May God bless you all!

I would also like to thank all those who continue to keep this parish alive and faithful. Thank you for your continued dedication both financially and spiritually. Finally, I would like to thank our altar servers, lectors, ushers, and volunteers who do so much to make our liturgies so beautiful. Together we have been blessed to use our time and talents to praise and adore our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May the blessings of the Paschal Feast be with you!
Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ