



Easter Proclamation Pastoral Letter

*of the Pastor Father Daniel Smith
to the lay faithful of the parishes*

Saint Michael, Clark; Blessed Sacrament, Florence; Saint Henry, Henry

April 14, 2020

Praise be Jesus Christ,

“In the silence of our cities, the Easter Gospel will resound.” Pope Francis reiterated this call to holiness in a different way in his recent video message for Holy Week. In our hearts and in our homes especially now in these times as ever before, in the silence, The Easter Gospel will resound. And what a blessing it is to behold our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is risen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! He is with us always. He saves...never leaving...always leading us to that great expectant hope of heaven someday. As for now though, we are to hunker down homebound and dig in. Yet, this is not something new to the pedigree of the people of the prairie.

In fact, as I was calling the homebound, a theme arose among them. The theme was, “This is normal for us, Father. This is nothing new. We are used to being homebound. Thank you for calling but maybe you should also reach out to the people that are not used to being homebound.” You know, there is wisdom in these words, coming from people that have lived on the prairie longer than most, have faced more challenges than most, yet a calming reassurance comes from their hearts. Yes, out of respect and with great sincerity, repeating “this too shall pass.”

For the Church is still alive... We can still have Baptisms, Confessions, Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick, Viaticum using the coronavirus precautions. Yes, Jesus is still in the tabernacle and the Church (Clark, Henry, and Florence) is still open for private prayer and devotion. Bulletins and The Word Among Us are still set out in the Church as normal. Each parish’s website (at parishesonline.com) has the bulletin and Mass readings on it. The Diocesan website (sfcatholic.org) has Bishop DeGrood’s messages and much more. The TV Mass with Bishop DeGrood is at 10am on Sundays on Keloland TV or can be livestreamed at sfcatholic.org at 4pm on Saturdays. EWTN is still on the TV. Formed.org has the movies, books, videos etc. (The parish code is M38647.) We are still taking a collection. (Offerings can be mailed to: *Parish Name*, PO Box 28, Clark SD 57225). We are still paying bills and recording sacraments and annulments. You can contact your child’s CCD teacher for help with homeschooling. Holy Water is in the back of the Church for you to bless your home this Easter season. You are still reading The Bishop’s Bulletin you are receiving in the mail. Rosaries are still in our hands at home and people are calling their neighbor. Correct? In mentioning just these few things, we can see that the Church is still alive!

And the greatest of these is that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is still being offered, but in a different way for now. I am offering a private Mass each day for Jesus’ people (you). “Private” means that there is still Mass but it is just with Jesus, myself, the saints and angels, and no congregants. Yet, some of the benefits are still as real as being there. Granted, the greatest thing in life is participating in Mass and receiving the Most Holy Eucharist—the Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord, Jesus Christ. There is nothing, even in Heaven, that is more sacred than the Most Holy Eucharist. Outside of this whether we are there or not, some benefits are: 1- Jesus is still in the tabernacle for all people (Catholic and non-Catholic alike). Come and spend some time in the actual physical presence of our Lord. 2- Mass lessens the Evil in our world. 3- Mass always atones for sin and makes amends whether we are there or not, and Mass always brings grace for a parish, the state, the country, and the world, and thus is still of infinite value for all even if there are no congregants.

On the back of this letter is a good pedigree for thy self and thy family. There is also a picture of two people you can pray to. One is God and the other is the Mother of God. You see, God allows things to happen for a greater good. Seek that good in these times. Not that God causes the evil but permits it for a greater good. Bishop DeGrood reiterated this in his April article in The Bishop’s Bulletin stating “God permits everything that happens to happen for a specific reason.” Maybe one can disconnect from the news and electronics during this time and reconnect to God in a different way. Make it personal, make it a proclamation, and let the Easter Gospel ring. God bless.

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Family Pedigree

May this “day-in-the-life” below become part of your permanent home and family pedigree. May it be in your blood and bring you the Goodness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Of course, in its truest form, we would be at Mass and still say your morning and evening prayers.

A good “day-in-the-life” in your home-- the domestic church

Sunday: 10:00am Mass with Bishop DeGrood on Keloland TV or go to sfcatholic.org

- * Ideas: get dressed as you normally would when attending Mass, set up chairs like a pew, bless yourself with Holy Water as you normally would when entering the Church, participate by not eating 1 hour before, make the Sign of the Cross, stand, kneel & respond as you normally would, take a collection etc.
- * Have breakfast with your family after Mass, call a loved one and your neighbor
- * Have that desire to receive the Most Holy Eucharist (make a spiritual communion)

Monday: 7:00pm Family Rosary. Start with your intention like “Mary, I am praying for...”

Tuesday: 7:00pm Family Rosary. Start with your intention like “Mary, I am praying for...”

Wednesday: 3:30pm CCD Homeschooling (see bulletin for any assistance)

7:00pm Family Rosary. Start with your intention like “Mary, I am praying for...”

Thursday: 7:00pm Family Rosary. Start with your intention like “Mary, I am praying for...”

Friday: 6:30pm Family Rosary. Start with your intention like “Mary, I am praying for...”

7:00pm Movie night on a Saint at formed.org. The parish code is M38647.

Saturday: 7:00pm Family Rosary. Start with your intention like “Mary, I am praying for...”



**Immaculate Heart of Mary,
pray for us.**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus,
pray for us.**