



I am the resurrection, and the life.
JOHN 11:25

Dear Beloved Members of St. Paul's Parish Family:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord of love and life! As I write this letter to you, the snow has finally gone, and the birds are singing. We know that we may still be in store for several more dumps of snow, but at least they will feel like spring snow storms, not part of an interminable winter! And soon, temporary setbacks notwithstanding, we'll all be celebrating the bursting forth of life around us.

As I write this, we're also on the verge of celebrating the bursting forth of new life in the Church Year – the life that has come through the outpouring of the love of Our Lord in the momentous acts of Holy Week and Easter. This year's activities at St. Paul's to mark Holy Week and Easter are listed on the reverse side of this letter. All of them are designed to help us experience the wonder of God's new life in our hearts.

We'll begin Holy Week on Palm Sunday with Services of Holy Eucharist at 8:30 and 10 a.m. We'll enter into the story of our salvation, from the "Hosanna!" of the Procession with Palms to the "Crucify!" of the Dramatic Presentation of the Passion of Our Lord. (We'll process inside at 8:30, but plan [weather permitting] to process outside at 10. If weather prevents us from doing this, our Sunday School children will process inside.)

The next three days in Holy Week will have quiet, reflective Services in the evening: a Service of Visio Divina on Monday, using the famous Saint John's Bible; BCP Compline at our historic Midnapore Chapel on Tuesday; and the gradual extinguishing of the light at the Tenebrae Service on Spy Wednesday.

Then on Maundy Thursday evening, we'll share a Service of Holy Eucharist, remembering the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love one another, with footwashing and the stripping of the Sanctuary of the symbols of our Faith.

At 11 a.m. on Good Friday, we'll share a Reserved Sacrament Holy Eucharist, focussing on Jesus' sacrificial love for us through the BAS Good Friday Liturgy. Then at a new time this year – 4 p.m. – we'll have our very popular Service of the Stations of the Cross for children and their families, followed by hot cross buns and a craft.

At 8:30 a.m. on Holy Saturday, men age 13 and up will partake of great food and fellowship at our monthly Men's Breakfast. At 11:30 a.m., women age 13 and up will follow, with our monthly potluck Ladies' Luncheon. On Easter Eve, we'll gather at 8:30 p.m. for the Great Vigil of Easter, with the lighting of the new fire, renewal of Baptismal vows, use of (hypoallergenic) incense, and Holy Eucharist.

On Easter Day, we'll gather at the Midnapore Chapel at 6:29 a.m. for a Sunrise Service of Morning Prayer. And lastly, as the pinnacle of our times of worship, we'll gather at 8:30 and 10 a.m. to share Services of Holy Eucharist, with special videos and special music by our Choir, in which we'll pour out our "Alleluias" in celebration of the awesome truth that Our Lord is risen! For the first time, we'll have the added excitement of a Children's Easter Egg Hunt, which will take place at the beginning of the Service's Children's Talk at the 10 a.m. Service.

I invite you to come to as many of these Holy Week and Easter Services as you're able, and to invite others to come with you and experience for themselves the warmth and light of our loving and living Lord.

Along with Cyril, Norman, Bob, and all our families, I pray for a most blessed Holy Week and Eastertide for us all.

God bless you all, always.

Your Brother in Jesus,

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