



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

APRIL 12, 2020 – EASTER SUNDAY

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

HOLY WEEK 2020 - Prayer & Adoration - Good Friday,

Saturday & Easter Sunday - 9:00am to 4:30pm Reconciliation: By Appointment Only 403-527-6933 ext 101

Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm - Closed on Holidays

Our Hope Lives Forever

Alleluia, Alleluia He is Risen Alleluia. Today we celebrate the victory over the death of our Lord. He is truly risen from the dead, Alleluia, Alleluia. According to St. Augustine, “it was impossible for the Author of life to stay under the earth for long.” The Christians all over the world have been preparing themselves with prayer, penance and work of charity to celebrate the greatest feast of all times, that’s Easter. No one expected that a man who was crucified was going to rise from the dead. St. Paul rightly says in his first letter to Corinthians “*Death has been swallowed up in victory. “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*”. St. Paul writing to the Thessalonians reminds them to seek what is above, not what is here on earth, because St. Paul knows everything on this earth is going to pass away.

Mary Magdalene went to visit Jesus’ tomb early in the morning and found empty tomb with stone rolled away. She must have felt heart broken and her hope crushed. Just imagine if someone has died in your family and how your family is feeling over this death. Today as the whole world is facing the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems the word “hope” is in the air. Prophet Job explains his situation in these words when he felt hopeless. “*But when I looked for good, evil came; and when I waited for light, darkness came. My inward parts are in turmoil and are never still; days of affliction come to meet me. I go about in sunless gloom; I stand up in the assembly and cry for help. I am a brother of jackals, and a companion of ostriches. My skin turns black and falls from me, and my bones burn with heat. My lyre is turned to mourning, and my pipe to the voice of those who weep*” (Job 30:26-31). Even Prophet Jeremiah saw no hope in people when they turned away from the Lord “*We look for peace, but find no good, for a time of healing, but there is terror instead*”. Moreover, he cries for his people imploring for the mercy of God “*My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”) “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there, why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? (Jeremiah 8:15, 18-22).*

Even though the whole world is suffering but hope lives forever because St. Paul beautifully reminds us with these words *“You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier’s aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself” (2 Timothy 2:1-13).*

Today as we celebrate the solemnity of our Lord’s resurrection, we need to believe that our Hope lives forever. Remember what St. Irenaeus said, “Christ opened heaven for us in the manhood he assumed”. St. Athanasius invites everyone on this feast day “The Lord calls his ransomed people to sing songs of victory”. St. Augustine opens our heart and reminds us to understand that we are people of hope and hope never ever dies “The resurrection of Christ was God’s supreme and wholly marvelous work”.

Today let’s act like Mary Magdalene who didn’t stop there but her reaction was priceless. She rushed back to inform the disciples and the reaction of St. Peter and other disciple is beyond comparison. They ran to see that their Hope had risen. St. Peter exclaims in these words in the Acts of the Apostles “Now I know there is no partiality in God”. Let’s remember the Feast of Easter is a feast of proclamation of his resurrection and victory over death. Our Hope lives forever even in a time when we are under the lockdown of fear. *Are we ready to proclaim “Truly he is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia?”*

Wish you all a very Blessed and Happy Easter.



He is not here;

he has

Risen!

Luke 24:6