



Holy Family Catholic Church
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Dear Parent or Guardian,

I wanted to take this opportunity to extend Easter greetings to all who attend our school. You may have chosen Holy Family because of our great staff, or commitment to education or because we strive to guide all families to pursue the truth and live it! Whatever your reason I thank you for trusting us with your child.

There are four things at the heart of Catholic Teaching, first is a deep and profound respect for human dignity, the second is religious liberty, and third solidarity (we are all members of our human family), and finally subsidiarity (empower the individual to help those nearest to them).

The thing that separates Christianity from all other religions is that we do not follow a dead guy. We respect other faiths and others rights to put their faith in them, but historically Buddha died, Mohamad died, the authors of the Vedas died, but Jesus rose from the dead and is the only religious leader that claimed He was "I AM", God's very name!

He is risen, truly He is risen!, this is the ancient greeting Christians exchanged for 50 days following the celebration of Easter, which culminates on the feast of Pentecost! Easter is one of those days that many are drawn to Church; it may be somewhat akin to those who might watch the Super Bowl, even though they have no vested interest in any particular team. There is a difference though, the Super Bowl has no potential to change one's fundamental outlook on life. The Super Bowl provides an annual reason to have a party and spend some time with some friends, but no matter how intently you watch the Super Bowl, it will not transform your fundamental disposition towards life.

Easter however has the potential to do just that! Suffering is a universal experience for all of us. Some suffer much more than others to be sure, but we really cannot make a judgment on how those around us suffer. There is physical suffering, and I would argue that more challenging than physical suffering is the emotional suffering that many endure in total secrecy. Maybe its root is the loss of a loved one, or maybe one who feels they cannot be loved or have never experienced love? Some may be victims of abuse, and carry this burden within the depth of their souls, hoping against hope that somehow, someday they may find relief? It could be the guilt that results from having done something horrible?

I would argue that faith can be seen fundamentally as a hypothesis. Simply put, if a scientist has an idea of how something works, they put their idea to various tests to see if the expected outcome comes to pass; the more repeatable the outcomes, the greater the probability of the hypothesis being true.

I would challenge you to ponder a few questions. "Do I experience the joy that Christ has offered me? Do I really believe in the resurrection? What is the evidence in my personal life that reveals Christ to others? Do I make more effort to get my children to athletic practice than getting them to Mass so as to glorify God by a sacrifice of my time? Have I fulfilled my Easter duty by receiving communion and confession once a year? I believe it was Pope Leo the Great who noted how every Christian's life is a juxtaposition of both joy and sorrow; joy because we believe we are counted among those who have hope in our salvation, and sorrow because so many around us seem to have no knowledge of God's love for them and are driven by hate.

If we understand our faith, we do not go to Mass to avoid hell, but rather to give thanks to God; the word for Mass, Eucharist, literally means "thanksgiving". A life of holiness not only brings personal happiness to oneself but also to those around those who pursue the true, the good and the beautiful.

I would encourage you all to resist happiness no longer, and strive to diligently practice your own faith! It will bring you and those around you joy! Test the hypothesis, strive not to miss Mass for a year, and see how your life is changed. He is risen, Truly He is risen! There are ultimately three choices, Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. I believe He is Lord, I invite you to share my belief and my Joy! Happy Easter!

Praised be the Master
Now and Forever,

Fr. Glenn Kohrman
Pastor, Holy Family Parish