



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and Praised Be Jesus Christ, who is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, the Octave of Easter, I express my sincere Gratitude, Joy and Congratulations to all of you our St. Patrick Family.

My Gratitude: to all who made the Sacred Triduum and our Easter Week so beautiful! From the Music and Choir to the Church Decorators and Servers, my sincere THANK YOU. From Palm to Easter Sundays, the Sacred Liturgies were so beautifully celebrated and gave fitting praise to Almighty God. I could not have been more pleased and I know our Lord was glorified: My thanks to all who contrib-

uted to our celebrations this past week.

My Joy: This was my 7th Holy Week as both a Pastor and Parishioner of St. Patrick, what a joy it is to celebrate this greatest of Seasons **with you!** It does not get any better than this. To celebrate, proclaim and believe the GOOD NEWS: Christ has Died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again! This is not only the heart of our faith, but this is the living experience that the disciples had at that First Easter! The joy of seeing Him, of encountering His Mercy, of walking with Him on the Way! My heart really is full of JOY to celebrate Easter with such a community. We are not perfect, but He is...and His Perfection encountered, believed and received here is a source of tremendous hope and Joy.

Finally, My Congratulations: I express this to the young people who received First Holy Communion this weekend! What a joy to receive the Eucharist in the Easter Octave, God providing His Son to another generation of His faithful! Our community is strengthened, fed and nourished in new ways this week, in the Eucharist being received by even more of our parish children. Families keep nourishing the faith of your little ones, in so doing your faith will be nourished.

Now there is still more to come! The Season of Easter extends for Seven Weeks and it will indeed be grace filled time as we celebrate our Blessed Mother, Ordinations to the Priesthood and Diaconate and more on the horizon. I close with a First Communion poem by L.E. Homfray. Enjoy these Easter Days!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Our First Communion.

O! God, in this sweet morning hour,
Thy children come to-day,
With lowly faith we would draw near,
Oh! send us not away.

Our hearts are young, and eager now
To serve Thee in the fight,

But in our weakness we would pray
For strength to choose the right.

They tell us, foes are ever near,
To lure us from Thy side;
Oh! would that we, within Thy Heart,
Might evermore abide.

But we, as soldiers brave and true,
Must witness for Thy Name;
Must bear the cross which Thou did'st bear,
Its glory and its shame.

And so, in this sweet solemn hour,
Thy children come to Thee,
To kneel before Thine Altar Throne
In meek humility.

For though we cannot see Thee now,
We know that Thou art nigh;
That Thou, in very truth art here
And wilt not pass us by.

And then, with souls made pure and white,
Back to the world we go,
Made strong by Thy redeeming Blood,
To vanquish every foe.