

EASTER BULLETIN 2020
'ALLELUIA MUST BE OUR SONG'

None of us will ever forget Easter 2020! No one in our entire world. You will tell your children and grandchildren about it in the many years to come. Easter Sunday 2020 celebrated in empty churches that would otherwise be teeming with faithful and some-what faithful alike. Young and old normally dressed in Easter finery celebrating the great gift of our salvation in the Resurrection of Jesus. After Easter Mass, there would be visiting with family and friends. There would be feasting at brunches and lavish dinners celebrating the end of Lent and the emergence of a long-awaited spring. Instead, we were in lockdown for our safety---dressed in our most casual of clothes and probably eating left overs or take -out meals.

The year 2020 will see locked and empty Easter churches. Mass will be celebrated privately by priests separated by social distance from one another and separated from their people via a computer or a smart phone. There will be no resounding Easter hymns. No elaborately sung Alleluias. Baptismal vows will be renewed virtually. Holy Communion will not be distributed and so many will be forced to make a 'spiritual Holy Communion.' At the end of Mass, there will be no familiar 'Alleluia Chorus' from Handel. After Mass, there will no handshaking or hugging fellow parishioners with Easter greetings. This is the Easter of 2020 we will all vividly remember.

But perhaps this Easter more than ever, we will sing a different but strong and very meaningful ALLELUIA from the depths of our hearts.

ALLELUIA for the gift of life! Sacred and fragile and God-given.

ALLELUIA for the courageous and selfless example of those who seek to preserve and protect life---medical professionals, hospital workers, 1st responders, police and fire fighters and so many more.

ALLELUIA for our dedicated educators who learned to teach so creatively from afar.

ALLELUIA for our families. Living so closely during this crisis has taught us a great deal about ourselves and one another.

Easter 2020, in one sense, is no different than any other. Yes, we celebrate the greatest mystery of our faith---The Resurrection! Through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross, you and I are saved and set free. We have the hope of eternal redemption and the promise of eternal life. For this, we must ALWAYS sing: "ALLELUIA!"

But this Easter 2020 is like none other! When we sing or say "ALLELUIA" this year, I know it will have a much deeper meaning for all of us.

HAPPY EASTER to you and your loved ones. And yes, "ALLELUIA!"