

Hope & Renewal: An Easter Letter

Dear brothers and sisters,

Peace and grace to you.

The Resurrection of our Lord is a powerful message of the limitless possibilities of hope and new life. It promises us that every obstacle can be conquered, every pain can be alleviated, and no sin is beyond God's merciful grace. As we celebrate Easter, we are encouraged to renew our faith and trust in God's unwavering promises. Much like the stone being rolled away from the tomb, may the Lord gently lift the burdens of fear, doubt, and discouragement from our hearts, giving us the strength to move forward with faith and optimism.

Let us welcome the new life Christ offers. Let it be a life marked by love, forgiveness, and compassion for one another. Thus, I warmly encourage you to take part in all the Easter celebrations: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Saturday Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Each occasion presents beautiful liturgies that recount the story of salvation, enriching our spiritual journey and deepening our sense of community. We are delighted to announce that this Easter, two adults will be baptised and become full members of our Church community, while another individual will be receiving their first communion and seven will be confirmed on June 12. These heartfelt milestones not only deepen their spiritual connection but also enrich and strengthen the bonds within our parish family. Additionally, please take note of these significant dates, as our parishes will be hosting several important events. On July 18th, St. Daniel's will hold a picnic; June 27th marks St. Mary's 175th anniversary celebration at the legion following mass at 4 p.m.; September 11th brings St. Daniel's celebration of the diocesan 200th anniversary at the agricultural hall; and from November 18th to 21st, we will gather for our parish retreat. These occasions are wonderful opportunities for our community to come together and strengthen our bonds and faith.

Last Winter, we faced significant expenses as we installed insulation in the rectory's attic and replaced two furnaces at St. Mary's Church. We are truly grateful for the successful completion of these essential repairs and give thanks to God for guiding us through. Special appreciation goes to Steve Caza, who generously repaired the eaves trough and fixed the leaking vent at St. Mary's Church at no cost. Looking ahead to this spring, we aim to repoint the stonework at St. Mary's Church, which will cost \$8,927, install a new awning at St. Mary's Church for \$1,525 and install a new air conditioner at the rectory for \$6,045. Your steadfast prayers, encouragement, and early support have been vital in achieving these milestones, and we sincerely thank you for your contributions. Our parish home now stands safer and is better equipped to serve our community for many years ahead.

We respectfully invite you to consider offering a financial contribution to assist with renovations or fixing issues around our buildings. Every donation, regardless of amount, will help alleviate the financial challenges we face and ensure that our ministries continue to thrive without interruption. For those who can contribute, donations can be submitted using parish envelopes or via e-transfer to stmaryofpresentationpayments@gmail.com. When making your contribution, please remember to specify "Building fund" so your gift is directed appropriately.

Let us, as a united parish family, journey forward in faith—lifting each other and bearing witness to the risen Christ wherever we go, whether in our homes, workplaces, or throughout our community. May our actions and words reflect the Easter Good News: "Christ is alive, bringing hope to us all!" As we celebrate this Easter season, may the peace and joy of the Risen Lord embrace your hearts and homes, inspiring us to share His love and promise with those around us. May the Lord bestow upon you countless blessings as a sign of gratitude for your sincere generosity and steadfast commitment to our parish community.

Happy Easter!
Yours in Christ,
Fr. Oliver Wekesa