

Dear parishioner,

We are excited to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in 2024! I'm writing to personally invite you to the Triduum (Holy Week) services and Easter Sunday so you can join us in these significant events. Most importantly, offer yourself "in prayer and thanksgiving as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." (Romans 12:1).

Easter is a time of renewal, refreshment, and restoration, just like the flowers that are in blossom. There is no doubt that God awakens the plants and causes the flowers to bloom at Easter. That's when He rolled the stone away, bringing His son from a dark grave into a glorious, light world, like winter to spring. As we approach the day we celebrate Christ's resurrection, I want to ask you to think of someone to invite. While we live in a busy world, the most important thing we can do with our time is worship our Lord, and gathering with other believers. Such fellowship has a powerful impact!

I'm confident that most, if not all, of us are familiar with the song "Amazing Grace," which has long been an integral part of Christian worship. I must say that I see fruit in many endeavors. First and foremost, even though we have lost some of our beloved parishioners to death, I thank God for the countless benefits he has showered upon me and our Parishes. For instance, this year marks my 15th priesthood anniversary. In this aspect, I have received tremendous affection and support from you parishioners. Thank you for your incredible gifts and messages and for joining my journey. This year, our Parishes have continued to gain new members hence mass attendance increasing! I hope they find our service engaging, our congregation kind, and our fellowship genuine. Moreover, I'd want to challenge every St. Mary's/Daniel member to invite at least one person to attend our church services during Easter and future regular masses with the hope of becoming a part of our community. Please encourage your neighbors, coworkers, friends, family, and even strangers to join us at mass. That is our baptismal calling and mission. So, I encourage you to get out there and be the church for them!

We are also pleased to welcome the St. Mary's elementary school choir, which will animate at several of our weekend masses at St. Mary's Parish. This is a significant step forward in improving collaboration with schools and encouraging children to participate actively in Church activities. Furthermore, we have seen an increase in our Parish offerings (weekend collection) and a significant improvement in buying mass intentions. Nowadays, each mass has a private intention! Thank you all for your generosity.

Furthermore, thanks to your donations, we were able to re-roof our leaking rectory. However, much more work remains to be done. For example, the ducts and furnaces require immediate attention, but we have unfortunately used up all of our building funds.

Furthermore, thirteen candidates will receive their first holy communion on May 11th at St. Mary's at 10 a.m., while four will be confirmed on June 1st at 5 p.m. mass, officiated by the archbishop. I at this moment cordially invite you to the confirmation mass. Your attendance will be a fraternal welcome to our archbishop and support for the candidates. Also, this year, we began parents' and first Saturday of the month masses at St. Mary's, and we are pleased with the turnout. Our goal is to provide as many opportunities as possible for strengthening our faith and developing a personal relationship with God. According to Acts 2.42-47, believers committed themselves to the apostles' teachings, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.

As we approach the glorious season of "Easter," I want to remind you that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is open to us today. We pray that the risen Christ will bring eternal life to our parishioners who died this year. Finally, let us pray for one another! Pray for the strength to stand and trust God's mission and kingdom. Pray for me, your pastor, that I may be strengthened in the Lord to withstand all challenges and proclaim Christ's righteousness to all who come. As Easter people, let us continue to be the vibrant church and pray that we will love and unite with one another (1 Corinthians 1:10) and be gracious to strangers (Colossians 4:5). "Alleluia, He is risen!" May God bless you with abundant faith, serenity, and joy this Easter.

Happy Easter!

Sincerely Yours,

Fr. Oliver Wekesa