



OUR LADY of
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings March 31, 2018

Holy Saturday

Growing up, I have two memories of anticipation. The first was our Advent calendar. Opening the windows of that cardboard calendar made Christmas seem a far, distant, unending reality. The second may sound strange to our younger generation. Before the introduction of credit cards, there was lay-away. My mom would go to a store and choose an item and take it to customer service. Then she would come back every week and pay a certain amount until the full amount was paid. I can still remember the look of satisfaction and pride on her face when she left the store with that item. They were lessons in delayed gratification.

Holy Saturday is a day of waiting, expectation and anticipation. It is also a tease. It is the opposite of delayed gratification. Our celebration of resurrection and new life begins tonight. It seems to say that, suffering, pain, sadness, distress and death should pass quickly. In fewer than forty-eight hours, Jesus will rise from the dead. It is the message that life and love conquer the realities of sin and death.

However, we know that the consequences of sin and death last longer than two days in our lives. The Church gives us seven weeks to celebrate Easter. We travel with Mary Magdalene who is the first to encounter the risen Christ. She came in sadness to anoint Christ's body. We walk with two disciples on their way to Emmaus in desolation after the death of Christ. We will be with Thomas, known as the doubter, but who is the only one in the

gospels to proclaim Jesus as, "My Lord and my God." We will be with frightened disciples who think Jesus is a ghost and live in fear and shame at their actions during this Holy Week. Jesus simply greets them with the word, "Peace." And we will be with Peter. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him and Peter says three times, "Yes." Jesus' response is for him to love and to serve.

I take that as my Easter message of new life. To experience new life this Easter season is our choice to renew our dedication to loving service. Happy Easter! We have seven weeks to celebrate new life in love and in service to one another.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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