



POST EASTER PASTORAL MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

I pray that everyone's Easter was a blessed one under the circumstances of the pandemic and with having to socially distance ourselves over the past 6 weeks. I extend my congratulations to the entire community for surviving a socially-distanced Holy Week and Easter. I hope that you were able to tune in to the services that were offered through Facebook and through the parish website sttheodores.org through Nest. I know that many people expressed how disappointed they were that they could not come and attend the services of Holy Week and Easter. I too was disappointed that you could not be with me during the services. The services were not the same without you. What kept me going was knowing that you were on the other side of the camera watching and praying and participating in the services as best as possible. And that is what our approach to our spirituality is to be. We need to be grateful for what we do have, and not concentrate on what we are not able to have during this trying time. We still have our families, we still have our health, we still have our faith, we still have our prayer life, and we know that God loves us and that He is there for us and He takes care of us.

I am blessed to say that as of this writing, I do not know of anyone in the parish who has been affected by the Coronavirus by contracting the disease. And I pray that no one ever contracts this very brutal and relentless disease. Continue to stay at home and practice good sense. Only go out when it is absolutely necessary and continue to practice good hygiene and wear a mask when leaving your home. Do not start to socialize with others just because you have become tired of this time period. I assure you that the end of our current situation is coming. I am hoping and praying that we will be back in church together at the earliest by the middle of May and at the latest by the middle of June.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Juliana and Paul Moniodes for chanting all the services of Holy Week and Easter. I also thank Jacob Tosado and Jimmy Tancabel for their assistance in the altar and with lighting candles for all of you. Without the four of them, I would not have been able to complete Holy Week and Easter with any success. We became like a second family for Holy Week and I am indebted to them for their service. I also would like to thank Nick Michaelides and Craig Tuthill for cleaning up after Easter services and putting the church back into proper order.

We are saddened to announce about the passing away of Mr. Basil Antoniadis, who passed away a week before Holy Week. Mr. Antoniadis was the husband of Eleni Antoniadis and the father of Spiros, Ioannis and Vasilia and the brother in law of Mr. John Maroulis. May God give rest to his soul and may He grant comfort and strength to the family.

Prior to Holy Week, over 125 calls were made to the seniors and members of the parish to see how you were doing and if anyone needed anything. Now that Easter is over, it is of great importance to me to again reach out to everyone via this Message, especially to the elderly or anyone who is isolated and if anyone needs any help, please contact me immediately. The Church is here for you, but I cannot know everyone's situation unless I am informed. Please call me at 410-241-9690 anytime for anything that you may need. Even if it's just to talk or express a concern, a worry, or if you need a prayer. We can pray over the phone. There are also several volunteers who have offered to go grocery shopping or pick up prescriptions for you and deliver them to you. Or if anyone is in need of food or financial assistance, let me know so that we can help you or someone that you know. Several people have come forward to offer this assistance.

In closing, I again wish everyone a very blessed post-Resurrection season and may God continue to protect us and guide us back to church and to lead us to our ultimate salvation.

With love in Christ,

Father Manuel