

Statement for Website  
From Fr. Michael Basque

06 May 2020

First, a few things you should know:

- I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who perform so many important ministries in our Parish. Whether you read, distribute Communion, Altar Serve or Usher at Mass, sing in the Choir, help with Children's Liturgy, the Learning and Prayer Sessions for Confirmation and First Communion candidates or Vacation Bible School, assist at the Feasts to St. Anthony or the Assumption, or are a member of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Legion of Mary or St. Vincent DePaul Society you enable Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish to make Christ present to our community. I realize most of you have not been able carry out your responsibilities during this Covid-19 pandemic. I just want you all to know we are thinking about you and praying for your well being during this time. I hope that soon we will be able to gather once again in our Church to celebrate our love of God and one another.
- The Sunday Video Liturgy for this coming weekend (Fifth Sunday of Easter) will be up on the Parish website soon. Thanks to all those who helped produce it.
- I would also like to thank all those who continue to support our Parish financially by delivering their envelopes through the mail slot in the Parish Office door, through Direct Deposit or on the Parish website. A thank-you as well to those who make donations of money and food to our St. Vincent De Paul Society so they can help the needy in our community.
- As measures are being taken to loosen the restrictions imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, some people are asking about when the Church will re-open and things will return to normal. We have not received any word from the Bishop about this issue. He is the one who will make these decisions. Although no final decision has been made regarding the Feast of St. Anthony, I suspect the event will have to be cancelled. A final decision will be made next week. Information about this matter will be posted on the Parish website as soon as it becomes available.

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At this time of year, light is something we take for granted. When I go out for my daily walk, I see more people cutting the grass, preparing their garden for planting and gathering the dead branches lying on their lawn. The warmer temperatures combined with the longer sunlight after supper gives people the chance to do chores that have been postponed since last Fall. Living in Canada, where six months from now it will be dark around 5:00 PM helps us appreciate the gift of this extra light.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells some Jews "I have come as light into the world". During Christ's lifetime, light was a limited commodity and so a good metaphor for something precious. The only source of light available to most people was the sun which meant that after dark few of them left their homes. Those travelling at night depended on torches or lamps to see which meant they were vulnerable to bandits. Within the house, light was limited to a room with a fireplace or a lamp which provided limited illumination. Old Testament authors recognized the importance and scarcity of light and so often associated it with wisdom and holiness. When Jesus told the

crowd he had come as light into the world, he indicated it is by accepting him and his message that they can distinguish between truth and ignorance. Those who reject what he reveals will be judged when the fullness of truth will be made clear at the end of time. Truth always overcomes ignorance just as light ends darkness. This truth depends not on human wisdom or political power but an eternal authority: God. Since like darkness, ignorance and evil is a common human experience, the light of truth can seem weak and fragile. However, because it comes from God it enables us to recognize falsehood and sin and cannot be extinguished. For this reason, we need to appreciate it.

Catholics and other people of faith recognize how the light of truth can overpower the darkness of ignorance. Sin and falsehood have never gone out of fashion. The bad guys often get away with murder. As the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths increases and tensions round the world with them, the temptation to hide in the darkness and avoid the light of truth becomes even stronger. Catholics and other people of faith know there is right and wrong. They know they will be held accountable for their actions. They know the truth revealed by God will win out in the end. As Catholics, we know Christ told us to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors. He told us we must feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned and fight for what is right. He never said we could use Covid-19 as an excuse for not doing so.

When he was alive, Jesus was the light which came into the world. Now that he has returned to his Father in heaven, we are that light. Do we appreciate this precious gift? Can people see it burning within us?