

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Easter. We have completed Lent, and the Triduum, and now we are filled with the joy of knowing the fullness of God's love for us. You see, it is not the Passion of Christ, or his death on the cross alone that brings us salvation. Jesus' resurrection from the dead completes the salvation process. Our sins are forgiven; we have been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb.

This past Holy Week was so incredible. I have been to several parishes who, like us, celebrated Communal Penance and it has been astounding to witness the joy of all those who have sought God's healing grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What a difficult action to take; to confess our sins in a way that is both very private and personal and yet, at the same time communal. With each experience of Communal Penance we gather together acknowledging our sins, and yet we are so personally touched by God's healing grace.

It is a great joy for me to introduce to you Amy Kuhn, Todd Sunderlage, George Pulos and Dean and Jenny Neisendorf who have received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at the beautiful Easter Vigil.

Congratulations to Nicolette and Charles Gurke, Dustin Serafin, Olivia Cotton, and Cori Huber who receive First Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at the 10:30 Mass. They have waited a longer time than most children for this very special day. They have gone through special classes and are now ready to come to the Lord's Table each week. How wonderful it is to welcome them to the heavenly banquet.

Dustin Serafin was also Baptized on Easter Sunday, and we welcome him into our Church as a member of the Body of Christ. All these people reveal the truth that Christ rises in us as we turn away from sin, and as we partake in the sacramental life of the Church. I am so happy and honored to be here to see and celebrate the miracle of new life taking place in our parish.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel