

# LED BY THE SPIRIT INTO EASTER

*by Fr. John Kerns, Pastor*

This year at Our Lady of the Lake we are celebrating Holy Week and Easter in our gymnasium. Certainly, it would be better in our beautiful church, especially after all the remodeling is done! But during this Lenten season we have chosen to see this year as an avenue for the Holy Spirit to teach us something new.

The basic question is this: *What can we learn about Christ, ourselves and our faith in this particular year in a gym, that we could not have learned in the church building?*

We may all draw different conclusions from that question, but here are a few thoughts.

- We learn that our parish is more about its people than its buildings. We ARE the Church! A beautiful sanctuary will become a renewed home for the people of this parish, but the parish is mostly about the people, wherever they may gather.
- Christ was present in “The Upper Room” in Jerusalem that first Holy Thursday of the Last Supper (which wasn’t a church, either), and he is still present to us in our gymnasium, or wherever we might gather for the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist.
- By being deprived of the use of our tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament, it makes us realize how much we need that Sacred Presence in a space of solitude. I believe this will make us all the more appreciative of our future Blessed Sacrament Chapel.
- Our parish is very flexible. We have continued to carry on almost every ministry in our parish. Which makes me think that things can only expand when the new spaces are finally available.
- We now know what amazing neighbors we have in Christ Church Episcopal Parish where we gather for most daily Masses and funerals and weddings. Hopefully it marks a growing friendship for the future.

As we celebrate Easter Sunday in our gymnasium and through the rest of the year, may it help us to appreciate these and other things all the more. Sometimes we only learn the value of something when we are deprived of it for awhile.

One of the key gifts we celebrate at Easter is that, even when we are deprived of our loved ones through death, we can be filled with the hope that we will see them again, thanks to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Happy Easter! Alleluia!



Fr. John Kerns, *Pastor*