

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaerl@stmoside.org
760-758-4100 x100

No Excuse Sunday

(This Pastor's Column is back by popular demand!)

As we begin this Holy Week and prepare ourselves to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection on Easter, next Sunday, I want to remind all of us that we have no excuses when it comes to worshipping our God. In the Resurrection of Jesus, God has taken away any and all excuses from us. We have no reason not to celebrate the gift of life we have been given.

God's will for us is to live life to the full, to be at peace, and to possess a sense of inner joy and direction as we make our journey of life, our pilgrimage of faith.

In the Resurrection, even death has been conquered. And in our union with Jesus, we can overcome any and all obstacles that keep us from living life to the full. As we rely upon God's grace, we are given all that we need to live with inner joy and peace, even as we face all the hardships of life, especially death.

God has taken away all our excuses, so we should let go of all the excuses that we use when we choose not to worship and thank God on a weekly basis.

So, in humorous fashion, I am jokingly suggesting that Easter Sunday will be declared "No Excuse" Sunday. Here is the whimsy:

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, the Church of St. Thomas More is declaring that Easter Sunday will be designated as "No Excuse Sunday."

Cots will be placed in the back of the church for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep late."

There will be a special section with lounge chairs and recliners for those who think our chairs are too hard and uncomfortable.

Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from the glare of late night Saturday TV programs.

We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to Church."

Blankets will be furnished for those who think that the Church's air-conditioning is set too low.

Fans will be given to those who say it is too hot and stuffy.

Scorecards will be distributed to those who wish to keep record of the hypocrites present.

Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to Church and cook dinner too.

Our Hospitality Ministers will pass around "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those who are weary of being asked for money.

One area of the Church will be devoted to trees and grass for those who prefer to seek God in nature.

Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.

The sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them.

We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher and cotton for those who can.

If you have any other suggestions, please contact a representative of the "No Excuse Sunday" Committee on the Plaza after Mass today.

You have no excuse. Let's see you on Easter Sunday and let it be the beginning of an "extended run!"

Let us all work on eliminating the excuses that keep us from our worship of the Holy One on High. We have a God who loves us and calls us to share Life on high forever! Let's celebrate.

F.A. Mike