



Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

From this evening through tomorrow is our Parish Patronal Feast Day: The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In normal circumstances we would gather for Mass and a Feast Day Social. We would enter our beautiful church in festive number, join in prayer – sung and spoken – the sound filling the space, and receive Him, who took on our flesh in the Mystery of the Incarnation, begun this day, when Blessed Mary gave her “Yes” in response to the Angel Gabriel’s greeting.

This year we can’t do these things. We offer up our staying at home for the health and well-being of all impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, for the healing of the sick, for the strength and continued service of health-care professionals and all who work for the common good.

In our mural, Blessed Mary had been kneeling in prayer when Gabriel approaches. I often wonder what the prayer was in those books of hers. Were they the Psalms? Was it Psalm 42?

***Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God?
I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival...
Then will I go to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy...***

We cannot be together now, but we will again. When that time comes, may it be with a holy thirst and hunger, a deepened appreciation, for the wondrous mysteries we celebrate when we are together, when we are the Church. A Church first gathered in His Holy Name when Mary and Gabriel, and the Incarnate Jesus, were together in prayer. Now, Mary waits once again...to lead us, her children, in joyful procession to the altar of God! May it be soon!

May the Lord send angels to guard and protect you. May His Mother embrace and comfort you. May He grant you His holy peace!

Fr. Grogan