

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As daylight grows longer and the temperatures are rising we are growing ever closer to Spring and to our joyful celebration of Easter. Our Lenten season has been filled with acts of charity, penance, prayer and sacrifice. These efforts pale in comparison to what Jesus did for us in suffering and dying that we might be saved from sin and live forever in the glory of heaven.

The celebration of Easter centers on the fact that the darkness of sin gives way to the bright light of Jesus whose mercy and compassion are unconditional toward all humankind. I am reminded of advice St. Stephen King of Hungary lovingly gave to his people out of concern that they always be close to Jesus and his spiritual promises: "Be humble in this life that God may raise you up in the next." St. Stephen truly appreciated the meaning of Lent and Easter. All of the activities of Lent depend on the willingness of the faithful to be humble, that is, thinking of God and others before they think of themselves. This humility opens one up to be emptied of sin and filled with the grace of God.

Enclosed you will find our schedule for Holy Week and Easter services and Masses. The Hungarian hymns and scripture readings connect us to our Hungarian traditions to make our services truly meaningful for all. We invite you to all of our Holy Week and Easter services and encourage you bring your relatives and friends as well. All are welcome at St. Stephen King of Hungary Church.

I thank you for your support of St. Stephen Church. Together we continue to live out our faith with integrity bringing others into an awareness of God's great love for them. Your continued prayers and financial support of our parish is very much appreciated. Your generosity will bring you blessings from God.

May God bless you and all your loved ones this Easter season and in the days to come!

In God's love,

Rev. Michael P. Knotek

*Father Mike*