



Again
I say **Rejoice!**

Feast of Saint Joseph, 2013

Dear Parishioners,

May the our risen Lord Jesus Christ bring you peace and joy!

Not since the very first Holy Week has our Church seen such strange times! The resignation of Pope Benedict XVI sent shock waves around the Catholic world that was already shaken by scandal. While many saw his resignation as a positive and courageous act in humble service to the needs of the Church, the upcoming papal conclave leaves us wondering and waiting for Easter more eagerly than ever before. These rare historical events also give vivid witness to the fact that the head of our beloved Catholic Church is Jesus Christ and is guided by the Holy Spirit. No man, no office is sufficient to contain the grace that has been bestowed upon us by the resurrection of our Lord.

Once again, I am grateful to serve as your Administrator. The people of Saint Stephen, King of Hungary Parish are a faithful and vibrant community. While I work with the Hungarian bishops to find a Hungarian-speaking priest for the parish, I want to encourage you to continue your support and participation in all of the activities at Saint Stephen. I am beginning preparations for our 80th jubilee, which will be held in August, 2014. Together, in Christ, we have accomplished much to glorify the risen Lord, but much more can still be done. Many of our families live a great distance from the parish and find it difficult to attend weekly. Our children and grandchildren are often more comfortable speaking English than Magyar. Yet, our Hungarian culture and heritage remains important to them. As you know, ours is a culture built upon faith in the Lord Jesus and our greatest national heroes are also our most beloved saints. Saint Stephen Parish has always been dedicated to promoting this unity of Hungarian faith and culture. The Hungarian School at the parish and our celebrations of national importance all emphasize the unity of faith and culture which is uniquely Magyar. Our Sunday Mass is the center of all that is Hungarian. Your regular support and your presence as often as possible at Mass is what makes Saint Stephen Parish possible.

As always, my purpose for writing is to offer you my Easter blessings and to invite you to join with me during Holy Week services. Truly, the fullest blessings of Easter come only to those who embrace fully their relationship with Jesus Christ and join with Him and the Church in celebrating His passion, death and resurrection. As you know from my financial reports and the proposed parish budget, we are more than ever dependent upon your generous gift at Easter and your regular support all year long. Even if you cannot attend Mass, the Archdiocese has a special website called www.GiveCentral.org to enable you to make your gifts electronically from your bank account or with a credit card. Please call, if you need help to log in and make your contribution electronically. I thank you for the exceptional generosity you continue to display by your offerings and presence.

May God's blessings be yours in abundance and may your Easter joy be great!

Rejoice in the risen Lord,

Fr Nick