

Hello to all!

This is a long email containing a story and an Easter time activity for Grace Church. I hope you will find time to read it and be happy that you did.

The pandemic is preventing any of us from worshiping together at Grace during Holy Week and Easter this holy season; however, it cannot prevent us from worshiping together in one innovative way.

A few days ago, I read the following story about a creative and effective way that the congregation of a church in Italy came together for Easter in spite of quarantine restrictions:

A priest serving amidst the epicenter of the pandemic near Milan, Italy, wrote that shortly after Masses were suspended, "the need arose to at least see the faces of the people in my parish, because celebrating Mass looking at the empty pews was sad."

The priest contacted his congregation asking them to send photographs of themselves to him so that he could tape their images onto their church's empty pews.

"This gesture meant a lot to the people, who even in staying home, were still present," the priest wrote.

Soon after, word got out about what he had done and people from other parishes and cities began to send their pictures, too.



Let's borrow his idea and form a "congregation" of photographs at Grace.

It will be strictly voluntary. Do not compromise the health and safety of yourself or others by participating in this activity.

There is a roll of masking tape at the back of the church on the small bulletin table.

Bring a photograph of yourself or your family to church to tape onto the seat back of Grace Church's pews where you normally sit. You know, "your pew."

This will indicate that you and others are together in spirit throughout Holy Week 2020 and beyond. Hopefully, our hearts will be gladdened by the sight of a growing number of photographs of our gentle and loving Grace Church family.

Mary Neal and I can help you by taking photos in your yard, delivering your photos to Grace, and by printing out photos emailed to us.

My telephone number is (540)347-9186. My email address is gulickdm@earthlink.net.

Mary's telephone number is (540) 272-3560. Her email address is muffneal@earthlink.net.

Jim has already placed his picture at his place at the Lord's table.

Also, there are palm fronds at the back of the church in a basket that have been blessed by Jim. If you decide to go to the church, please pick one or two or three, if you wish, up for Palm Sunday this Sunday.

Last, as Jim mentioned in his most recent email, Carol is asking us to bring food for our Feed My Sheep when we come to tape up our photographs. It's very much needed

I look forward to "seeing" you all fill Grace Church's pews as Easter approaches.

Much love,

Diane