

SAINT ANNE MISSION

Klagetoh, Arizona

E A S T E R 2 0 2 1

Alleluia!

Dear Friends,

As this pandemic began, over a year ago, I wrote of what I had unexpectedly given up for Lent.

I don't think many of us knew at the time that the COVID-19 pandemic would be with us so long. The Navajo Nation has endured many restrictions over the past year, and there is a certain hopefulness this Easter that was subdued last year.

With the Navajo Nation taking the first cautious steps towards reopening, I feel the spirit of Easter this year more than I have in decades. Even though there will be no egg hunts or any of the other traditional festivities associated with the holiday, this Easter will truly convey to me the spirit of rebirth and new life like none other.

May you share in the joy of this Resurrection!


Bro. Charles Schilling, SC
Administrator

A Return to Worship

Church gatherings were among those activities suspended last March in efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation. Those efforts, coupled with a very successful vaccination campaign by tribal health officials, have finally progressed to the point where the rate of new cases and deaths on the Reservation has declined precipitously.

On Palm Sunday, March 28, a number of Saint Anne parishioners gathered with parishioners of All Saints in Ganado to celebrate together the first public Mass in the parish in over a year.

The new regulations permit worship services with 25% of the room's capacity and six feet of

separation between family groups. The only space in the parish that can accommodate a significant number of people under those conditions is the Parish Hall at All Saints in Ganado.

Parishioners were generally excited about the prospect of gathering together for Eucharist, even though the usual social gathering afterwards could not take place.

Hosanna!



Parishioners gather in the Parish Hall in Ganado for Palm Sunday Mass. Chairs were arranged to maintain a six foot distance between family groups.

A Slow Reopening

With the issuance of Public Health Order 2021-007 on March 26, the Navajo Nation continues to implement a slow and cautious reopening plan. On March 15 the Navajo Nation transitioned from Red status to Orange status, allowing the Mission to resume the public celebration of the Mass. A transition to the next status, Yellow, will allow the reopening of our play spaces and basketball court. It is unclear when the tribe will once again permit visitors.

Local Schools

Two school districts serve families of the Klagetoh Chapter. In March, the Sanders schools offered the option of returning to in-person classes while maintaining distance learning. The Ganado School District Governing Board will discuss possible reopening of in-person instruction at a future meeting.

In the meantime, the Mission continues to make its Internet access available to local students involved in distance learning activities.



Ganado High School senior Michael Billie uses the Mission's Internet service to access online distance learning activities and Zoom classes.

New Propane Tank

Heating costs remain one of the Mission's greatest single expenses, ranging from \$8,000 to \$14,000 per year. On March 17 Nations Gas Technologies installed a new 1,000 gallon propane tank at the Mission to serve the Volunteer Trailer and Sister Monica's house.



Workers from Nations Gas Technologies unload the Mission's new 1,000 gallon propane tank.

The decision to purchase and install a new tank was made following delivery and pricing issues the Mission experienced with its long-time propane supplier last Fall. After a seriously delayed delivery that left the tank serving the Mission House at a dangerously low level, we contracted with another supplier to serve that tank, which is owned by the Mission. We then discovered that the original supplier was charging far higher rates than their competition: a delivery of 550 gallons from the new company was \$500 less than an earlier delivery of 500 gallons from the original.

Since the other two tanks on the campus were on loan from the original propane supplier, we were obligated to order propane only from them. The purchase and installation of this new tank means that the Mission can shop around for the best market price and take delivery from any supplier. The expected savings will pay for the new tank in 2-3 years.

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