

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
July 12, 2020**

**JOY IN THE LITURGY**

The liturgy always has a dimension of service, that is, it helps the faithful who participate in it to live better. The liturgy helps to strengthen more and more the personal and community relationship with the Risen Lord. That's why it helps them to live better and be happier. "Taste" and "see" the Lord gives us joy, as the gospel of this Sunday tells us: "blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear".

This Sunday's gospel, in addition to telling us about this joy that the liturgy can give us, helps us to look at reality with hope. This is a service that is always necessary, because there is a constant tendency to close ourselves in a small world, where everything is controlled by us. The parable of the sower presents Jesus who faces the surrounding reality with a firm hope in the action of God, that is, that the seed will always bear fruit, despite the existence of difficulties.

In the liturgy we find the summit to which we must take all our concerns, difficulties and needs. Putting all this at the feet of the Risen One on the altar

transformed into Calvary. The path of Christ's passion and the supplication of the cross have been transformed into the joy of the resurrection, this is what we experience every time in the liturgy.

The liturgy is the source of grace that transmits to us this divine strength of the Risen One to be strengthened to face life. It is in the liturgical action that we receive the example that we must repeat in our lives of imitating the action of Christ and thus feeling true joy in the Risen One.

Let us not forget to pray for each other,

Father John Carlos