



525 GRANT AVE., NORTH MANKATO, MN 56003 | 507.387.6501 | F: 507.387.7365

Parish Office

507-387-6501 | Fax: 507-387-7365
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Emergency Number

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Religious Education Office

507-345-6765

Accounting Office

507-345-6828

Email

hros2@hickorytech.net

Website

holyrosarynorthmankato.com

Holy Rosary Parish Staff

Father Paul van de Crommert, *Pastor*
Cindy Gawrych, *Office Administrator*
Jim Theuninck, *Accounting/Administration*

**Ministry for Sick & Homebound/
Support Staff**

Lorraine Klaseus | 507-388-4932

**Calvary Cemetery
Board Representative**

Gary Zellmer

Loyola Catholic School

Adam Bemmels, Pre-K—12 Principal

Loyola School Office

507-388-0600 | Fax: 507-388-3081

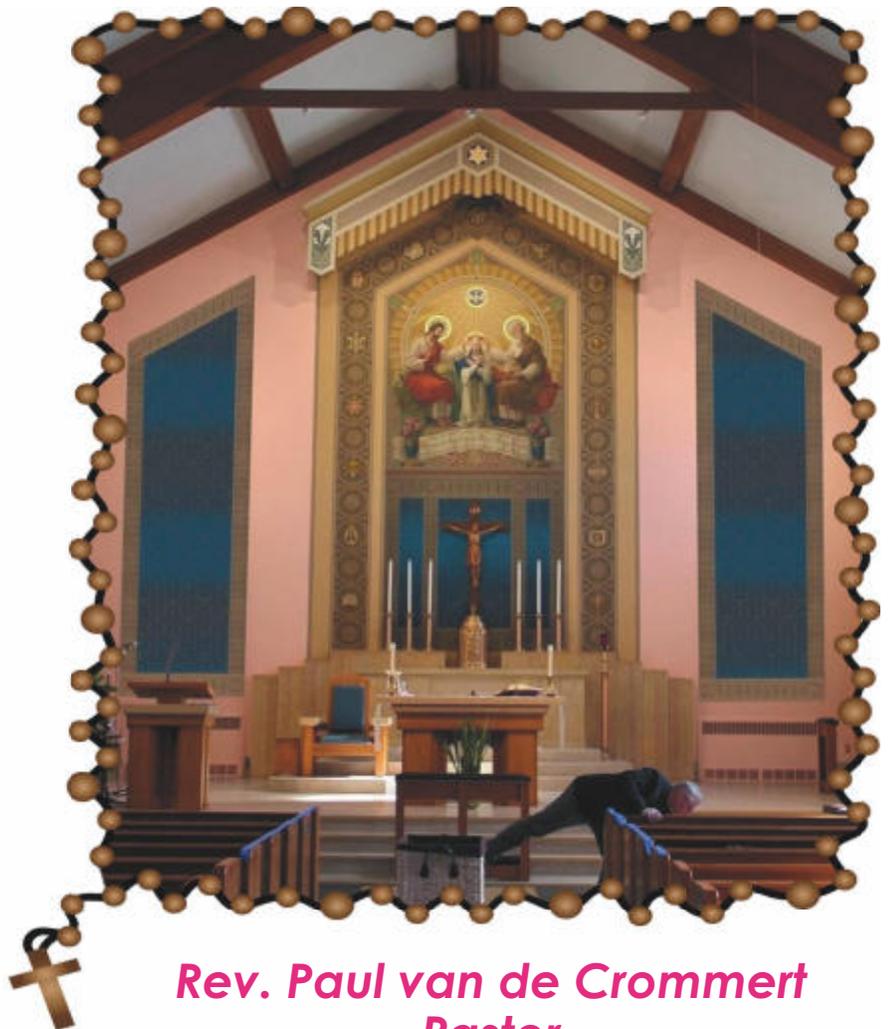
Bulletin Article Deadline:

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm Noon

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March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent



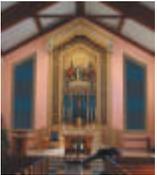
Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

“Laetare Sunday”
*Let us REJOICE and be HAPPY!
Redemption and Holy Easter will
soon be here!*

the Quill and the Cloth

“But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

- St. John



Laetare! That is a Latin word that literally means, **Be Happy!** The word “laetare” almost sounds like the word “light,” which we are very happy about this time of year. And while we might not be happy to get up a little earlier

for Mass, we are happy that it is light later into the evening, and it is but another sign of spring.

But there are many other reasons to be happy this time of year. Our weather has been nothing short of wonderful, as we are experiencing unseasonably warm temperatures. If the truth be told, the weather ishere it iswait for it *Perfect.* It is not too hot. There are no bugs. The snow is virtually gone. This is about as good as it gets when it comes to weather in Minnesota, and it is such a wonderful time to walk. I had been staying indoors while the ice was everywhere and falling was a real hazard. But while I have been busy these last weeks, I did block out time from around 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Sunday through Tuesday of this past week, to walk and clocked about 40 miles. It brought me great happiness!

Last week I did my first three Sacraments of Anointing of the sick in people’s homes. I just returned this week to begin celebrating Mass at one of our local care facilities. My calendar is getting filled with more and more appointments. It appears that the long awaited artwork, (that in some respects was the intention of Bishop Schladweiler some 70 years ago) might be installed by this Easter. Holy Week is going to happen with some moderate adaptations, making the services slightly shorter, which will make some worshippers HAPPY! And the list of all of the things that are happening around me that bring me happiness, hopefully brings you happiness as well!

The Universal Church celebrates this 4th Sunday of Lent with a change in liturgical colors to the rose color, because it is a festive color and the optional color to be used on this “Rejoice Sunday” or “Laetare Sunday” in place of the penitential purple. For our happiness on this Holy Sunday is not simply rooted in the special physical things that are happening in our earthly life, but we should be HAPPY that in the liturgical life of the Church, we are just **THREE WEEKS AWAY FROM THE GREAT FEAST OF EASTER!** Both

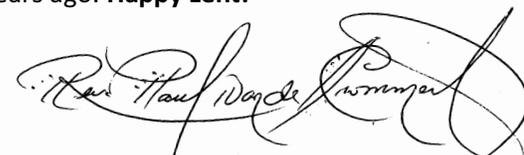
physically and spiritually we all have great reasons to be JOYFUL, for the blessings of rising up physically from this pandemic, as well as spiritually seeing Christ rising up from the dead through the Paschal Mystery.

Today’s readings all carry an air of *Happiness*, and *Joy*, and *Rejoicing!* The First Reading from the Book of Chronicles begins sorrowfully because of sin, but concludes with these words from the King of Persia: “**...All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord, the God of heaven, has given to me, and He has also charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is Judah...**” Just as there is joy and happiness when a church is repaired or restored, even more so when such a structure is being erected from scratch as stated in the first reading.

All of us at any age experience *Happiness*, *Joy*, or *Rejoicing* when someone says to us, “*I have a gift for you.*” In today’s Second Reading from St. Paul to the Ephesians, St Paul shares with his listeners the *Happiness* and *Joy* with these theological words: “**...For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.**”

Then, in today’s Gospel from St. John, Jesus is in a deep spiritual conversation with his friend Nicodemus. Most of us would agree that we experience *Happiness* and *Joy* when we spend time with our friends and have a good sit-down conversation. Not only the conversation, but the words coming from Christ’s mouth are filled with *Happiness* and *Joy*, as the Lord mentions the word *Light* (something we really like in Minnesota this time of year after a long winter) with these words: “**...For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works may not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.**”

From *Light* to *Love* to the rich *Liturgies* that we will be *Living* out in just three short weeks as we enter Holy Week and celebrate the great Feast of Easter, we have so much to be *Happy* and *Joyful* about. May you find a reason to count the many hidden blessings in and around your life at this time so that you too will experience *Laetare Sunday* and **Be Happy** in the **Joy** of knowing **Jesus** rose from the dead some 2,000 years ago. **Happy Lent!**


Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor



Palm Sunday - Eucharistic Adoration

Over the past 12 months, we have not held any Eucharistic adoration time before the Blessed Sacrament due to the pandemic. But now, as more and more people are receiving the vaccine, and as more and more things are opening up, I would like to return to the devotion for the faithful of exposing the Blessed Sacrament. There are many graces and blessings that come to those who spend time in prayer before our Blessed Lord in the Holy Eucharist! **I would like to have a special exposition and time of adoration beginning at the close of the 10:00 A.M. Palm Sunday Mass on March 28th, until 5:00 P.M.**

At the main entrance of the church, we will have sign-up sheets so that someone is always present in church when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. Our intention for this devotional time will be: *****For all the members of Holy Rosary, baptized boys and girls, teenagers, as well as all adults, all those who have been confirmed in the faith to return to the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist as we celebrate the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (Vigil of the Resurrection).*****

I will also make myself available during the Exposition of the Holy Eucharist for individual confessions in the cry-room area. The time of exposition will close at 5:00 P.M., with evening prayer and a formal Benediction. The schedule for Palm Sunday will be as follows:

Palm Sunday Schedule – March 28th

- 8:30 am - Palm Sunday Mass**
- 10:00 am - Palm Sunday Mass**
- 11:00 am – 5:00 pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm - Individual Sacrament of Reconciliation**
- 5:00 pm - Evening Prayer and Solemn Benediction**



Stewardship of Gratitude 3/7/21

Our Gifts to God & Holy Rosary

Adult Contributions	\$13,686.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,809.85
Plate Collection	\$93.00
Junior Collection	\$53.13
Fuel Income	\$400.00
Ash Wednesday	\$75.00
Easter Flowers	\$645.00
Easter Offering	\$845.00

Weekly Offering Total \$17,606.98

Weekly offering goal is set at \$10,300.00

Bridging the Gap \$0.00

Additional Weekly Income \$2,666.48

Grand Total \$20,273.46

Total weekly stewardship goal is set at \$13,200.00

**Thank you for your gifts of gratitude to God!
May God reward your generous spirit!**

Stewardship of Gratitude

We are blessed as a parish family that we are able to stay above our budgeted needs week in and week out and that we are doing so well both in stewardship as well as seeing people coming to attend Mass. Although our attendance numbers are not where they were more than a year ago, each week we are seeing more and more people returning to in-person service. **(We are continuing for the immediate future to post our Masses online, but we are showing them in the afternoon and not in the morning as we don't want to make it too "convenient" and to encourage people to in-church services.)** The Stations of Cross are almost to our usual levels. I am glad that I returned recently to the third Mass on the weekends as we are now approaching one "packed" church if you combined all 3 Masses together. But if you have not been to Mass, do not think that you cannot socially distance, for you certainly can! Of course there is always availability in the choir loft as well. *(*I am hoping that in 4-6 weeks we will be surrendering our masks and doing a bit more singing.)* Pray that we might have the faithful return to the Holy Eucharist by no later than Holy Week! As always, thank you for your gifts!

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 15th: Lenten Weekday

12:00 pm - Mass - Dorine Moll†

Tuesday, March 16th: Lenten Weekday

Private Mass - Rush Limbaugh†

Wednesday, March 17th: [Saint Patrick, Bishop]

10:00 am - Mass @ Oak Terrace - Mickey Meyert

(Oak Terrace residents only**)**

6:30 pm - Faith Formation - Grades 6-9 - Mass -

Maurice Jongbluedt† (ALL parishioners welcome to attend!)

Thursday, March 18th: [Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church]

12:00 pm - Mass - Joe Ostgarden

Friday, March 19th: SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

12:00 pm - Mass - Anne Frederick

5:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 20th: Lenten Weekday

5:00 pm - Mass - Lucille & John Braam†

6:00 pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation - Cry Room

Sunday, March 21st: 5th Sunday of Lent

8:30 am - Mass - People of Holy Rosary Parish

10:00 am - Mass - Mary McVickert†

11:00 am - Sacrament of Reconciliation - Cry Room



Ministry Schedule March 20 & 21

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm Pat & Wanda Hull
8:30 am Terri Compton
10:00 am Darlene Schorn, Karen Winters

Ushers:

5:00 pm Steve & Barb Enderle
8:30 am Mary & Gary Zellmer
10:00 am Blaine & Teresa Kolstad

Thought For the Week



"Rejoice in the Lord always! I shall say it again, REJOICE!"

-4:4 St. Paul to the Philippians

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.) Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical, Care Comp Ins, and Priest Care Fund:

COMPLETED Paid to Date: \$83,446.38
DUE: \$83,446.38

Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.):

57% COMPLETED Paid to Date: \$18,695.00
Goal: \$32,866.71

Loyola Catholic School Assessment:

COMPLETED Pd to Date: \$162,257.53
DUE: \$162,257.53

Church Air Conditioning Update:

30% COMPLETED Pd to Date: \$33,070.00
DUE: \$108,750.00

Total Paid to Date 2020-21: \$297,468.91
Apostolate stewardship for 2020-21: \$387,320.62

This week we took another bold step forward in stewardship as we completed the cost, (or nearly completed) of some of the many repairs and capital improvements we have been performing over the past two years on our church both inside and out. Specifically, this week, we concluded the final expenses that we owed to WEB Construction, by paying out the remaining \$9,000.00 of the total cost of the project of \$249,526.68. We presently owe BLK Electric \$11,020.00 for the electrical work that was recently done throughout the interior of the church. So, before they sent us the final bill, I made the pastoral decision to press forward and to pay almost half of the amount of \$5,000.00. When the last amount of \$6,020.00 comes due in the near future, we will not have quite the sticker shock as we might otherwise would have experienced.

We continue to also have the Good News of paying down the expense of our new air-conditioning system that we might be using sooner than later if the weather continues to be so mild in this month of March. This week we paid down another \$5,000.00 towards the system, bringing us to over \$33,000.00 that has been paid or almost ONE-THIRD of the cost completed, or 30% at this time. With still more than 3 months remaining before the close of the Fiscal Year of 2020-2021, I have some faith that we might have this new unit paid in full. **As we begin the work on the Vacation Raffle this May, I have made the pastoral decision that all of the proceeds of this event will all go to defray the cost of our air-conditioning system. So, when you are invited to purchase a ticket, we hope that you will say YES!**

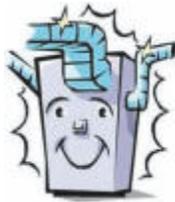
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Stewardship Corner continued...

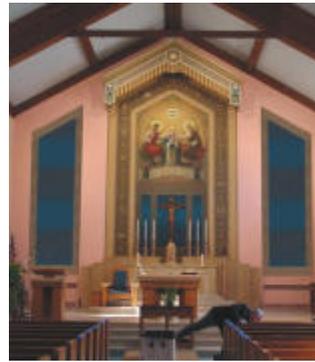
We have about 14 weeks remaining in our present Fiscal year of 2020-2021. If we would be able to average \$5,000.00 more each week to cover the cost of the new air-conditioning system, this would bring in an additional \$70,000.00, bringing our grand total to slightly more than \$103,000.00 and about \$5,000.00 from our goal. Perhaps the Vacation Raffle will be extra successful as well as the Easter collection bringing up the shortfall of the air-conditioning project. This would put us over the edge and maybe even surprise a number of folks who felt this type of stewardship achievement would not be impossible in such short time and especially during the year of pandemic. Maybe there is someone in a JOY-FILLED spirit who would like to give a designated gift for this project in the near future as the markets are doing very well right now! Maybe that person is YOU!?! And as always, thank you for your gifts so very much!!!

Fuel Fund - Thank You!

Can you believe that Easter Sunday is just THREE SHORT WEEKS AWAY! Where has the Lent of 2021 gone? Certainly the mild weather has been a great help in making the time go more quickly versus lots of cold and snow! When it comes to our Fuel Fund collection we have been winning on two fronts. For we have had unseasonably warmer weather and this has resulted in being able to turn the thermostat down in the main buildings, although I have turned the furnace off in the rectory! We are also winning on the second front for this past week we collected an additional \$400.00 for our Fuel Fund, bringing us to a grand total collected of \$8,060.00, which is HIGHER than what we had taken in last year by \$325.00. Although we welcome any additional monies for the Fuel Fund collection as we have paid over \$13,500 for fuel and will still be receiving a couple more bills; my focus and thrust will not be the HEATING but ON COOLING as we work to cover the cost of the new air-conditioning unit that was installed last fall. Hopefully we can raise the additional \$75,000.00 to cover the cost of new system. As always, thank you for your gifts!



Renovation Report



This week I finalized with the studio the exact dimensions of the two main murals, as well as some smaller details on the four murals that are behind the four statues in the four corners of the church. As I write this, the artists are hard at work and have given me the assurance that all 6 pieces of art will be completed and in place before the start of Holy Week and for sure before Easter. That gives these men about two full weeks to Palm Sunday and about 3 weeks to Easter to get the murals up and completed. I guess we need to have faith that it will be accomplished. (**It might be a good reason to come to Mass in person to see these works of art for yourselves during Holy Week!*)

I have had a number of people ask me exactly how the artwork is done, what material is used and how the artwork is installed in our church. The present mural that is 71 years old is heavy canvas like you might use to paint an oil painting and put around a wood frame and then place in a formal decorative frame. The only difference is that the artwork is mounted directly on the walls with glues and adhesives. This art, if for some futuristic reason would need to be taken down to be relocated or restored, with some effort could be again removed from the wall. (*We hope that will never need to happen.*)

The computer rendering gives people a very good idea of what the finished product will look like upon completion for those who have a hard time visualizing things. There is a lot of thought and effort that goes into all of the details. We are most appreciative to our generous benefactor in our parish family who had graciously volunteered to cover the cost of this beautifying project, without even our asking for this stewardship support. We have the making of a very beautiful church this Easter! Thank you for your patience and your gifts!

- Father





Upcoming Parish Events

- **Spring Forward!** - Set your clocks ahead one hour - Sunday, March 14th
- **Faith Formation** - Grades 6-9 - Wednesday, March 17th, 6:30 pm, church
- **NO Faith Formation** - Grades 1-5 - Wednesday, March 24th
- **NO Faith Formation** - Grades 1-9 - Wednesday, March 31st - Holy Week
- **Parent/Student Confirmation Informational Meeting** - Wednesday, May 5th, 6:30 pm, church
- **Vacation Raffle** - Monday, May 17th, 6:00pm, school gym/cafeteria (and outside, weather permitting)



Faith Formation



Grades 1-5 – “Liturgy and Lessons”

This week grades 6-9 will meet for “Liturgy and Lessons” as we draw closer to Holy Week and the great Feast of Easter. Although this has been an unusual year academically, it is quickly winding down. Once Holy Week hits, we will be having one week of spring break and then we will be down to the final classes, finishing up at the end of April. Time certainly does fly.

Please note, there will be NO Faith Formation on March 24th, as Father Paul will be unavailable that day. Thank you all again for your flexibility during this most usual academic year!

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 1st - Holy Thursday

7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper
8:30 pm - 12:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration - Lower level

Friday, April 2nd - Good Friday

12:05 pm - Good Friday Service
7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross with Benediction

Saturday, April 3rd - Holy Saturday

7:00 pm - Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 4th - Resurrection of the Lord

8:00* am - Mass (note earlier time)
10:00 am - Mass



First Holy Communion Congratulations



Our prayers and best wishes go out to Jaxon Goettl on the occasion of his First Holy Communion that was celebrated this Sunday at 10:00 A.M. Mass. Our prayers and best wishes go out to Jaxon and his family on this joyous occasion on this Laetare Sunday. May the reception of the Holy Eucharist for the first time be the beginning of a long and life-time relationship with Jesus Christ!



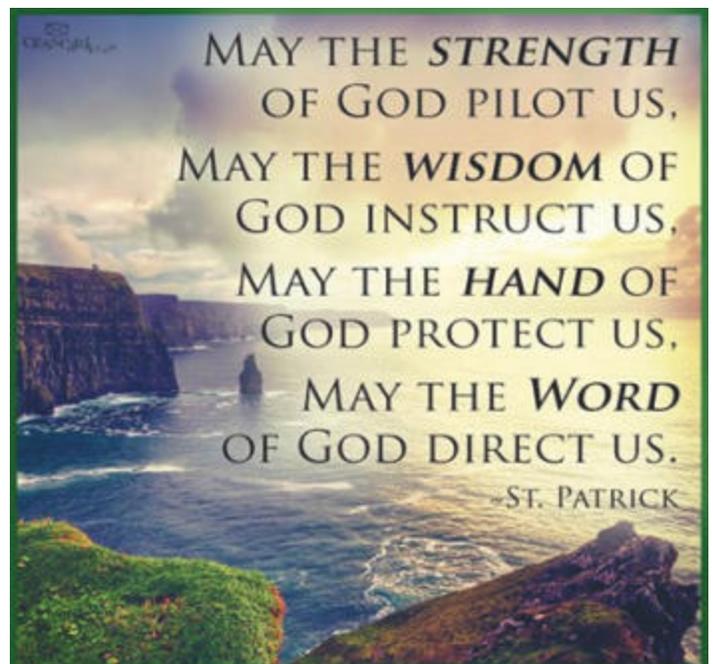
Birthright Raffle - LAST CHANCE!

It is again time for the Knights of Columbus to co-sponsor its annual Benefit for Birthright Ticket Raffle. The proceeds go directly to our local chapter of Birthright, which provides services such as confidential pregnancy testing, counseling and ongoing support. Tickets are available at the parish office during office hours, or by calling David Mutch at 387-5406. The cost of each ticket is \$5.00. There are 5 prizes ranging in value from \$50.00-\$250.00. Please help support this worthy cause!



This Week's Sanctuary Light Intention:

Pat Davis





Liturgical Laetare!

With each passing week we are slowly returning the liturgy more and more back to normal. We have taken the tape down and left it up to the individual worshipper to socially distance. We have returned to opening all the doors, regular confessions are available after all of the Masses, daily/weekend Masses and Stations of the Cross are seeing greater numbers, and ushers are returning, etc. **BEGINNING THIS WEEKEND, WE WILL BE RETURNING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AT THE USUAL TIME, AND NOT THE END OF MASS. HOWEVER, PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD THAT RECEIVING COMMUNION ON THE TONGUE IS NOT DONE AT THIS TIME.**

We are just 3 weeks out from Holy Week and we have received several pages of directives of the do's and don'ts liturgically speaking. ***I am hearing from some of you of what other churches in the area are doing, but some of these churches are taking liberties that they have not been permitted to do; such as making mask wearing optional or having full congregational singing. At this point, there is still some risk in these actions, at least for a few weeks longer until more people are vaccinated.***

Specifically, when it comes to singing, I find it curious that Catholics so miss congregational singing, but I have celebrated many Masses in many parishes where I have had to push people to open a book, much less to sing along. People would say to me, "Father, I am not like you, I don't have a singing voice!" My response always was, "Well, you can still follow along in the book, as it is prayer too!" I recall a book that came out many years ago that I still have on my shelf entitled: *Why Catholics Can't Sing*.

In speaking with Diocesan leadership and reviewing the directives, I plan to have the Gloria sung for Easter and there will also be hymns that will be sung by a song leader with accompaniment. Specifically, when it comes to Holy Week, there will be some modifications and adaptations:

Palm Sunday: (5:00 PM/8:30 AM/10:00 AM) There will be palms available and ushers will be handing them out with plastic gloves at the start of Mass. The priest is now allowed, with a mask on, to come down the main aisle and bless the palms that the people will be holding up with Holy Water. I will be inviting lectors to return to read the two readings and the psalm for Mass beginning on Holy Week, but the shortened gospel will be read like a usual Sunday by the priest alone. (*I suspect no one will mind hearing a shorter passion and it actually was my plan to do this last year even before the pandemic.*) I know that it is a burden for some to stand during this long gospel. I also hope to have in place for Holy Week and beginning with Palm Sunday song leaders who will assist me in leading a song for

Mass to open and close the liturgy, as well as for Holy Communion. (*Worship Aids will be given out starting at Holy Week that you will be asked to take home with you or to dispose after Mass in receptacles at the entrances.) *Please do not throw your blessed palms away but **PLEASE TAKE THEM WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

Holy Thursday: (7:00 PM) Holy Thursday will be much simpler than in past years. The rite of washing the feet of 12 people has always been optional. In order to have this ritual this year, it would require 12 separate sets of water and the priest washing his hands 12 times. For the sake of time and safety, I am pastorally dropping this ritual for this year. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will still occur and I will process down the main aisle to the lower social hall for people who wish to spend time in adoration until midnight. The cry room area is too tight a space if there are a number of people present. Again, programs will be provided, which you are asked to dispose of or take home when you leave.

Good Friday: (12:00 PM/7:00 PM) The only change is that the priest may process down the main aisle with a mask and the crucifix, and will sing the line "This is the Wood of the Cross...". You may respond if you wish. At the third time, the assembly will be invited to kneel down for a moment of adoration and then the liturgy will continue with the distribution of Holy Communion.

Easter Vigil and Easter: (7:00 PM/*8:00 AM (note earlier time)/10:00 AM) We have no new members coming into the Church this year. (*That should come as no surprise to anyone.*) We have been given the option of not having the candles this year because of social distancing, and so I will forgo the candles and begin the Mass from the front of the church, with a very simple fire and the lighting of the Paschal candle. We will not have a choir and the psalms will be read. I hope to have some Easter hymns which you may or may not choose to sing with your masks on. (**Personally I cannot sing with a mask on, much less give a sermon.*) At these Masses programs or worship aids will also be distributed for those who wish to have them.

I know it is not perfect, but please understand as pastors we are doing the best we can and are trying to make people feel as safe as possible in the waning weeks of the pandemic. ***I still maintain that it is extremely safe to come to Holy Rosary. We are still sanitizing the church professionally after every major service. If we can go to school, shop, do sports, etc., certainly we should be able to show up for the services for an hour at the most sacred solemnities of the entire liturgical year. May our FAITH increase and our FEAR decrease! See you in churchI hope!!!***

-Father

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