



Holy Rosary Catholic Church

O F N O R T H M A N K A T O

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Parish Office

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Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Emergency Number

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Religious Education Office

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Accounting Office

507-345-6828

Email

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Website

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Cindy Gawrych, *Office Administrator*
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Support Staff**

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**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:

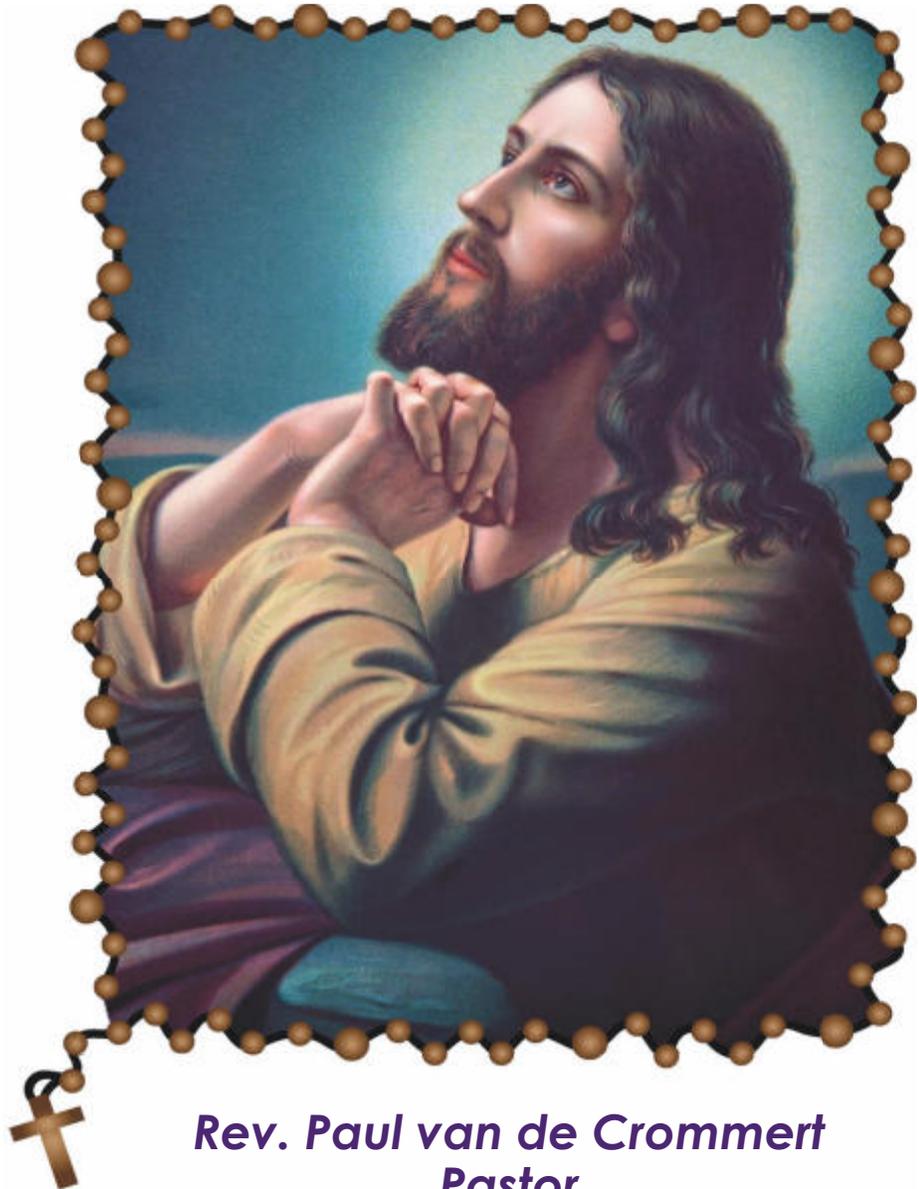
Tuesdays at 12:00 pm Noon

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March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor

the Quill and the Cloth

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father glorify your name."

-St. John



Two weeks ago, after the weekend Masses, as well as a few confessions sprinkled in between, I came back to the house after putting everything away around noon on Sunday, and felt unusually ...troubled. Depression is maybe too strong a word, but feeling *down* is perhaps more accurate. I am usually pretty upbeat as far as my moods go. Since we were in the midst of the mid-March warmup, I decided to burn off those low feelings with a long walk. I did feel better, but I was still a bit out of sorts.

I called a couple of my fellow clergy members later that day, who admitted that they were struggling a bit spiritually during Lent as well. I disclosed to them that I had been working harder than ever on the weekly bulletins, homilies, Faith Formation, beginning my sermons each week with a new song (*just to spice things up a bit*), etc. etc. But the attendance, I told them, was lukewarm at the very best. One of my priest friends asked me, *"If you combined all three Masses together, how many people would be in church?"* I said that we would probably have one full church. He then asked how the stewardship was going. I said we were above budget. He calmly said, *"Paul, stop complaining! You are doing better than most of us when it comes to the practice of the faith."*

Another priest sent me an article of the status of the church in the Netherlands as we are heading out of this world-wide pandemic. This is what the article said in part: *"...After one year of church lockdown, parish life in the Netherlands is coming to a standstill. 21 priests from seven Dutch Dioceses told reporters that the very few loyal*

churchgoers have remained despite the lockdowns, but those who have less of a bond with the church are gone. The same goes for families and children. One priest said that nearly all catechetical activity, like preparing classes for First Communion and Confirmation, have ceased in his parish. Some priests explained that people more easily skip a funeral Mass and take their deceased straight to the crematorium, where they are allowed to gather for a cup of coffee after the ceremony. One priest summed it up this way: "People who previously would have come to church, now don't."

In today's Gospel account, the Lord is equally troubled. He knows that the cross and Calvary is just around the corner, and He is feeling genuine human fear! Yet, at the same time, Jesus knows that the work of a Savior is salvation, and that includes the suffering of the cross in order to come out the other side to the glory of the resurrection, three days later on Easter morning.

I often think of the lines of the late, great Archbishop Fulton Sheen of radio and television fame. He often said that when a young man aspires to the priesthood, the first question that should be asked is simply this: ***"Are you prepared to suffer?"*** (*I am not sure it is the greatest question to ask in the promotion of priestly vocations.) Of course, this same question could be asked of the vocation of marriage, or maybe if one decides on a secular vocation of service, such as a teacher, health care worker, or even a street sweeper. Are you prepared to suffer?

We read in the Book of Psalms, Psalm 90 of the Old Testament, that very wise line: ***"Seventy is the sum of our years, or eighty, if we are strong; most of them are toil and sorrow, they pass quickly and we are gone... Teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart."***

Elsewhere in the scriptures, and particularly the gospels, the apostles are not able to drive out an evil spirit, but the Lord is able to do so with ease. When the disciples ask the Divine Lord why He can do it so easily and they could not, He responds simply with the words: ***"This kind of spirit can only be driven out through prayer."*** So on that long walk that Sunday, I figured this evil spirit of indifference and insecurity will not be solved by complaints or worry, but rather by prayer. In the case of today's gospel from St. John, Jesus' only solution to the spiritual suffering of the cross, is simply to pray from deep within his troubled heart and spirit.

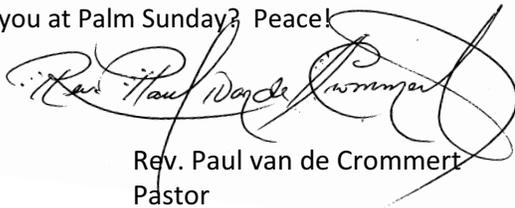
Having studied philosophy extensively in college I am still of that naive belief that people who practice the faith will still listen to reason or logic. I just finished up my sermon for Holy Thursday late this last Tuesday night. I

(continued on page 3)

"The Quill and the Cloth" continued...

think it is one of my best, but maybe it is not; for it relies on intellect and logic and a listening ear. One of the lines I wrote: *"...For the great paradox of this pandemic when it comes to practicing the faith, generally speaking, is that our "senior souls," who maybe should have stayed at home, still largely showed up even before they were vaccinated and have weaker immune systems; but our "junior souls," with sounder immune systems, who were largely at school and work, stayed securely at home during Mass time."* It kind of defies logic!

So next week is Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday. After the close of the 10:00 A.M. Mass, we will expose the Blessed Sacrament and pray before the Eucharistic presence for Holy Rosary, for the nearly 2,000 members of this congregation — for their conversion, for them to be convinced that they need Christ and Holy Communion in their life, not occasionally, but weekly, if not daily. *Since most of my students of the past in this parish as well as a good number of parishioners affirm that they do not take the time nor the trouble to read the bulletin, maybe you who are still reading this column, in the spirit of evangelization to the uncatechized, might read it to them?* Happy Lent? See you at Palm Sunday? Peace!



Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor



Next Sunday - 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 next Sunday, on March 28th until 5:00 P.M. for a greater devotion to the faith, particularly the Holy Eucharist.**

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.



Stewardship of Gratitude
3/14/21

Our Gifts to God & Holy Rosary

Adult Contributions	\$5,264.00
Electronic Giving	\$4,457.77
Plate Collection	\$117.00
Junior Collection	\$91.81
Fuel Income	\$185.00
Easter Flowers	\$1,025.00
Air Conditioning	\$100.00

Weekly Offering Total	\$11,240.58
<i>Weekly offering goal is set at \$10,300.00</i>	
Bridging the Gap	\$0.00
Additional Weekly Income	\$334.00
Grand Total	\$11,574.58
<i>Total weekly stewardship goal is set at \$13,200.00</i>	
Thank you for your gifts of gratitude to God!	
May God reward your generous spirit!	

Stewardship of Gratitude

Every Monday, my administrator gives me a handout of the income that was received during the week, as well as the weekend and electronic totals. He will testify that my comment continues to be, *"I am impressed at the giving here at Holy Rosary."* Even though our attendance is mild, the collections are mighty good as people continue to mail in contributions, drop them off at the office or have checks sent from the various investment firms.

This week I received another fuel bill of nearly \$3,000 for a single month, even though we set the thermostats as low as we dare. Someone made the comment recently that the parish was being run less as a church and more like a business. I am not insulted even when it is said as a mild criticism. As one priest used to say, *"The Church can run on prayers spiritually, but physically it must run on our pennies; not only on devotion, but also on our dollars."* In the days ahead I will be sending you a letter. The letter is mostly an encouragement to practice the faith and to participate in Holy Week. Yes, I may give honorable mention of stewardship. But if stewardship trends continue for the next three months as they have been, we have the makings of a seven-year stretch of sound financial stewardship at Holy Rosary. As always, THANK YOU for your sacrificial giving!

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 22nd: Lenten Weekday

12:00 pm - Mass - Roy & Monica Dauffenbach†

Tuesday, March 23rd: [Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop]

12:00 pm - Mass - Don Theissen† (*note schedule change)

Wednesday, March 24th: Lenten Weekday

NO Daily Mass - (*note schedule change)

Private Mass - LeRoy Karpinsky†

NO Faith Formation

Thursday, March 25th: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

12:00 pm - Mass - Bill Sieberg†

Friday, March 26th: Lenten Weekday

12:00 pm - Mass - Roy Toegel†

5:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 27th: Lenten Weekday

5:00 pm - Mass - People of Holy Rosary Parish

6:00 pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation - Cry Room

Sunday, March 28st: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30 am - Mass - Leon Wanzek†

10:00 am - Mass - John Drummer†

11:00 am – 5:00 pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

3:30 – 4:30 pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation

5:00 pm - Evening Prayer and Solemn Benediction



Ministry Schedule March 27 & 28

Lector:

5:00 pm Brian Eggersdorfer

8:30 am Michelle Fischer

10:00 am Nancy Holden

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm Pat & Wanda Hull

8:30 am Sharon Lenz, Arlyce Anderson

10:00 am Sherry Henrickson, Ryan Howe

Ushers:

5:00 pm Bob Meyer, Mark Weingartz

8:30 am Sharon Lenz, Arlyce Anderson

10:00 am Doug Helget, Bob Wegscheid

Music Ministry:

5:00 pm Michael Steimel/Tom Bachmann

8:00 am Lori Christiansen/Julie Gruber

10:00 am Vicki Galli/Kathy Jo Johns

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:

35% COMPLETED Pd to Date: \$38,170.00

DUE: \$108,750.00

Total Paid to Date 2020-21: \$302,568.91

Apostolate stewardship for 2020-21: \$387,320.62

This week we took another small step forward as we were able to apply another \$5,100.00 towards our air-conditioning project, bringing us to 35% of our needed goal. As we begin the work on the Vacation Raffle that will be coming up in May, I have made the pastoral decision that all of the proceeds of the event will 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! As we approach the great feast of Easter and this sacred and Holy Week, maybe there is a generous heart or two out there that might dig a little deeper and in addition to their Easter offering, they might also might give a second gift of stewardship towards this air-conditioning fund. But whatever you give, a large or small gift, know that it is always appreciated. As always, thank you for your gifts!



Save the Date!

Holy Rosary's Annual Vacation Raffle is coming up on:

May 17th at 6:00 pm.

Plan to join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship!



SILENT AUCTION:

We are in need of Silent Auction items for this great event. If you have any new or gently used items you are willing to donate, please drop them off at the parish office or give Jim Theuninck a call at 345-6828. Thank you so much for your support!



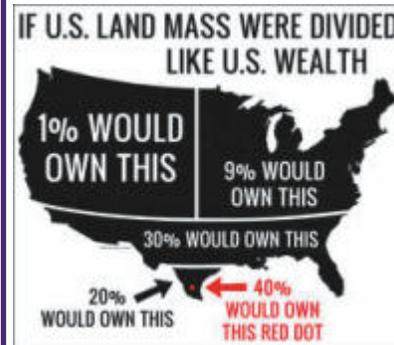
Thought For the Week....

This past Sunday, as I was anticipating the heavy snow that fell most of Monday, I decided after the three weekend Masses to go on a hike to the University and back home. As I was walking downtown, I noticed a large truck with folks milling around this vehicle. I approached to see what was going on. I saw ethnically diverse people who had come for food distribution. It reminded me again that we need to keep at this work of mercy of bringing food for the poor, particularly as we enter into Holy Week. *(On Holy Thursday we will be taking up our annual collection for our Needy Fund. My intention is to immediately give half of what we collect to the ECHO Food Shelf.)* **Last week we brought in 54 pounds of food, bringing our total foods collected to 1,392 pounds.**

I have written these things in the "Thought for the Week" because I would like you to give some thought to the great financial, food, and housing inequality that exists in our nation and has only intensified over the past several years.

Consider some of the following statistics, beginning with the fact that **THE UNITED STATES EXHIBITS A WIDER DISPARITY OF WEALTH BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR THAN ANY OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPED NATION IN THE WORLD. BILLIONAIRES' WEALTH HAS SKYROCKETED DURING THE PANDEMIC.** As ordinary people around the world suffer from the health and economic impacts of the pandemic, billionaires have actually seen their fortunes expand by 39% between March 18, 2020 to January 18, 2021 from nearly 3 trillion dollars to beyond 4 trillion dollars. **THE THREE RICHEST MEN IN AMERICA OWN AS MUCH WEALTH AS THE BOTTOM 50% OF AMERICANS.** Is this just or right? And the richest Americans in this country in 2019 are worth 21 times as much as those who were rich in 1982. **THE RICHEST 5% OF AMERICANS OWN 2/3RDS OF THE U. S. WEALTH. THE RICHEST 1% OF AMERICANS HOLD MORE THAN 50% OF ALL U.S. STOCKS, BUT LESS THAN 5% OF ALL U.S. DEBT.**

BLACKS AND MINORITIES ARE BECOMING POORER. The racial wealth divide has continued to grow worse over the last three decades in the U.S. Blacks are two times more likely to be poor than white people. Home ownership is heavily skewed today toward white households. In 2016, 72% of white families owned their home, compared to 44% of black families. My thought is



this, we still have a lot of work to do in this country in terms of social justice. I wonder if the folks crossing our southern border know how tough it is today to get ahead in the U.S.A. as more than 10 million Americans are unemployed right now in

March of 2021? Please bring non-perishables when you come to Mass during the week as well as on the weekend.

Renovation Report

This week I was in contact with our artist Craig Gallagher. I sent him an e-mail wondering when we could expect the artwork to be up. (I was hoping that it would be up before Holy Week as well as Easter.) Craig sent me a short note that read on Monday, March 15th: *"Hi Father, We are working on the panels. We're hoping to finish everything later this week and install next week. I'll keep you posted on dates as we get closer to finishing."* So, the men are working on our project and it appears that the artwork may be up and installed by Palm Sunday. If not by then, it seems quite definite that the artwork would be installed on or before the Sacred Triduum. It seems promising that at this time this is definitely possible. They had talked initially about installing the artwork on March 15th, this past Monday, but that date has come and gone. I guess that we will have to wait and see at this time. I am hoping and praying that it will be ready by Holy Week.



The statue of St. Joseph has gone in last week for some minor repairs. There were three small chips on the statue and that work should be done any day. In my free time, I am doing some cleaning of the Blessed Mother's statue. She is quite dusty and dirty from being on the wall and around candles for many years. It is amazing what good condition the statues are both in after 70 years. Like you, I miss them in their niches, but they will be back on or before Easter. If they arrive early, I will cover them as is the Catholic liturgical custom, and we will see them back, with their new painted backgrounds for the first time at the Easter Vigil.

The church should look pretty festive when we celebrate Holy Week in 2021!

-Father



Upcoming Parish Events

- **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)**

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



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



Faith Formation Update

This past Wednesday we gathered with the families and students in grades 6-9. Believe it or not, we are quickly winding down the Faith Formation academic year. We are down to our final classes after Holy Week, with our next gathering (and final “Lessons and Liturgy” gathering) for grades 1-5 on Wednesday April 14th. On Wednesday, April 21st will be the final “Lessons and Liturgy” for grades 6-9. Depending on our weather and what the status of this world-wide pandemic is at, I was hoping we could have an outdoor liturgy and either a picnic/pizza or ice-cream social. (Maybe we could have Dairy Queen Dilly bars that are all pre-wrapped after a Mass.) Our final gathering was scheduled on the master calendar for Wednesday, April 28th.

There are no directions when you are trying to pastor during a pandemic. But if there is one thing that we did get right during this past year was to hold these weekly gatherings of “Lessons and Liturgy” for grades 1-9. And while unfortunately, not all of our families choose to be part of these gatherings, I believe that those who came, both students and parents grew in their faith and developed a greater appreciation for the Mass. (**My plan for next fall is to have one of these “Liturgy and Lessons” once a month. It will make for a lighter load for the catechists and it will also continue to reinforce that the Eucharist must be central to our life.*)

PARENTS: CAN I ASK A FAVOR OF YOU? SINCE YOUR CHILDREN ARE BACK IN SCHOOL, BRING THEM TO MASS. IF THEY CAN BE 8 HOURS IN A SCHOOL BUILDING, CERTAINLY THEY CAN COME FOR AN HOUR OF WORSHIP ON THE WEEKENDS. JUST AS STUDENTS FALL BEHIND ACADEMICALLY WHEN THEY ARE NOT IN THE CLASSROOM, SO TOO CHILDREN AND ADULTS FALL BEHIND SPIRITUALLY IF THEY DO NOT TAKE HOLY COMMUNION IN THEIR HAND AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK. The bottom line is that we all want to get to heaven and the Lord who we claim that we believe was the Son of God told us that we need the Holy Eucharist. ***“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life within you!” (St. John 6:53)***



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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