



# Palm Sunday

HOSANNA TO THE KING



*Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH • APRIL 5, 2020**  
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# WELCOME HOME



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Fr. Tom Rafferty  
frtom@ap.church



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Flocknote is one of St. Anthony's main sources of Communication to our Parishioners. Sign up today to receive: Fr. Tom's Weekly Emails, Important Parish Updates and Information.

**St. Michael the Archangel,**  
*defend us in battle, be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

## MASS TIMES

*All Public Masses have been suspended. The following Mass Times will be live streamed at [ap.church/livestream](http://ap.church/livestream)*

**Monday - Saturday** | 9 AM  
**Sunday** | 9 AM & 1 PM Español

## RECONCILIATION TIMES

Due to the Montgomery County Stay Home Court Order, Confessions are only available in the event of an emergency.

## ANointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available by scheduling an appointment. Contact Sue Dewlen at [sdewlen@ap.church](mailto:sdewlen@ap.church)

## PHONE NUMBERS

**Parish Office** | 281-296-2800  
**Parish Fax** | 281-296-7238  
**St. Vincent De Paul** | 281-466-1920  
**St. Anthony's Bread** | 832-482-4210

## RECEPTION HOURS

The parish office is closed until further notice. The staff is working remotely, to find contact information visit [ap.church/staff](http://ap.church/staff).

## CLERGY & STAFF

**Fr. Bruce Powers** Visiting Priest

**Dcn. Mike Krall**  
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# COVID-19 UPDATE

## MARCH 27, 2020 UPDATE

For the most up to date information, visit [ap.church/covid-19](http://ap.church/covid-19)

In accordance with the "Stay Home - Stop the Spread" Court Order from Judge Keough for Montgomery County, TX. The following adjustments have been made to our campus operations:

### St. Anthony of Padua Procedures

- **Sunday Masses:** Will be privately celebrated by a priest at 7AM, 9AM, 11AM, 1PM (Español), & 6PM and will be live streamed on our website and Facebook for you to join in prayer at home. The Saturday Vigil at 5PM will also be privately celebrated. We also recommend selecting some other devotional for your family to practice at home on Sundays (ie Rosary, Divine Mercy, Bible Study, etc).
- **Daily Masses:** Will be privately celebrated by a priest Monday through Saturday and live streamed @ 9AM daily on our website.
- **Confessions:** Are only available in the event of an emergency.
- **Private Prayer:** Due to the Court Order on March 27, 2020 from Judge Mark Keough of Montgomery County the church is **CLOSED** for private prayer until at least April 12, 2020. We recommend creating a sacred space in your home or backyard for private prayer during this difficult time.
- **St. Anthony's Bread Food Pantry:** Will continue their critical outreach efforts but with strict social distancing procedures and limited volunteers. The pantry hours of operation remain the same at this time. If you would like to donate food on your way home from the grocery store - the food bins will be available for drop-off outside in the piazza. *The SAB Food Pantry is open on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:00am to Noon, and Saturdays from 11:00am to 1:00pm.*
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Will continue critical operations. This ministry is able to

provide short-term assistance to those in crisis in the form of rent assistance, utility bills, or other emergency funding. For those needing assistance: Please call 281-466-1920 and leave a detailed message with your name and return phone number, and one of our members will contact you.

### PRE-EXISTING PROCEDURAL UPDATES:

- **Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament is reposed until further notice.
- Under current circumstances off-campus meetings & retreats are **not sanctioned by the parish** until further notice.
- All parishioners are **excused** from the obligation to attend Mass.
- If a parishioner is in the higher risk category due to current illness, age, or suffering from a chronic health condition or compromised immune system, **are asked to remain at home.**
- **Baptisms of Infants:** the celebration of the sacrament of baptism is to be postponed, unless there is danger of death.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** communion for the Sick and viaticum for the dying will only be distributed by priests. Priests will continue to minister to the sick where they are permitted.
- **Confirmations:** suspended until further notice.
- **Funerals:** may only take place in the form of "The Rite of Committal with Final Commendation" (also known as 'graveside').
- **Holy Week:** particular directives will be given for Holy Week from the Archdiocese in the event the crisis continues through that time period.
- **Parish Staff:** will work remotely. Please contact them via email with questions.
- **Stations of the Cross:** are being filmed in our sanctuary for use at home on Fridays.

For more information on other ministries and procedures visit [ap.church/covid-19](http://ap.church/covid-19)

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### ST. ANTHONY'S BREAD

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### SVDP LOCAL

\$ 7,942.25

### CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

\$ 1,994.43

### PARISH ANNUAL FUND

\$ 661.00

### MAINTENANCE FUND

\$ 36.00

**TOTAL | \$ 129,836.92**

*\*Includes Online Giving*

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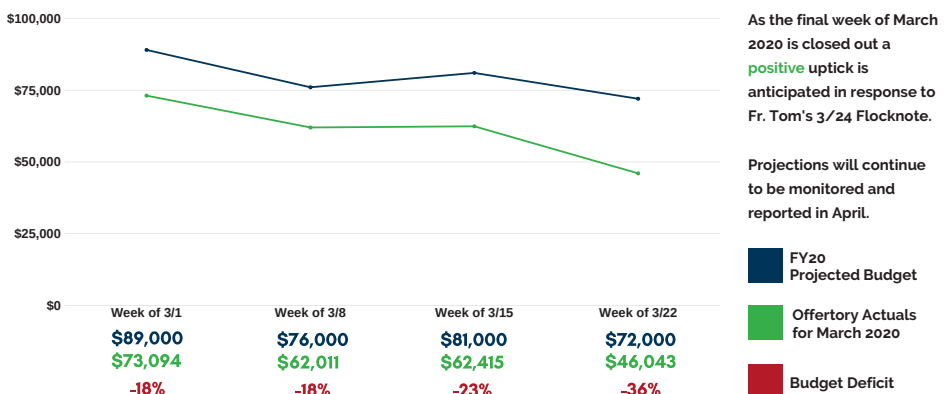
## END OF MARCH PARISH UPDATE

Dear St. Anthony of Padua Family,

This is a long message but stick with me if you can. The past month has been a whirlwind of updates, closures, and modifications to our parish operations. I do have a few more difficult updates for you today but then I'd like to end this email by highlighting what we are doing as Church!

First the difficult update, in the month of March we saw a drop in offertory - we fully understand that many of our parishioners have been immediately impacted by the economics of the coronavirus and we pray it will be short lived for all of us. Due to this drop, last week I made the difficult but necessary decision to furlough some of our parish staff. These staff members are loved members of our community and this decision was not easy. I specifically chose the furlough option so that these staff could retain their benefits during this time of uncertainty. The remaining staff will carry out the parish mission including the daily tasks handed over by their furloughed coworkers. - Fr. Tom Rafferty, Pastor

## MARCH 2020



\*Includes all online giving, which is reported monthly - not weekly - in the bulletin.

*\*The graph only represents Offertory. Not SVDP, SAB or other ministries.*

# LITURGY & PRAYER

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

By Philip Kosloski on [Aleteia.org](http://Aleteia.org)

The Church encourages us to make an act of "spiritual communion," where we unite ourselves to God through prayer. It is a beautiful way to express to God our desire to be united with him when we are unable to complete that union in the reception of Holy Communion.

Countless saints incorporated this type of prayer into their daily lives, not being satisfied with receiving Jesus in the Eucharist once a week or even once a day. Making an act of spiritual communion for them was an essential part of life and drew them closer to God on a daily basis.

St. Josemaria Escriva encouraged everyone to make a spiritual communion as often as they could, "What a source of grace there is in spiritual communion! Practice it frequently and you'll have greater presence of God and closer union with him in all your actions."

Padre Pio also had a habit of making a spiritual communion throughout the day outside of the celebration of Mass. He desired to be always united with Jesus Christ in everything he did.

Below is a traditional prayer of spiritual communion that many saints have prayed over the years. It can be prayed if you find yourself at Mass unable to receive the Eucharist, or even in the midst of your daily work, lifting up your thoughts to God.

The ultimate goal of our lives should be communion with God and an act of spiritual communion can help a person draw closer to that goal.

***My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.***

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### ST. ANTHONY'S ONLINE LIBRARY

During this time you can still grow in your faith and listen to talks on topics of Morality, the Kerygma, and basic Catholic Teachings. Visit [ap.church/believe](http://ap.church/believe) for our online library.

### FORMED.ORG

Formed.org is a vibrant, relevant and complete program to re-evangelize and reinvigorate our parish. This "Catholic Netflix" can help transform your life. Pulling together the best in Catholic movies, children's programming, audio dramas and books, we provide a trusted and engaging entertainment alternative in support of a Catholic lifestyle. Sign up with a free account using the Parish Access Code : **39a794**

### PRAY MORE NOVENAS

Pray More Novenas was created to help you pray by sending you each novena prayer for 9 days. It has transformed the prayer life of thousands of people by bringing them closer to God in a consistent way. There are various novenas that you can sign up, there is even a novena for the Coronavirus. Let us recenter ourselves in prayer. [praymorenovenas.com](http://praymorenovenas.com)

### iMISSAL PHONE APP

Visit the app store and download iMissal where you can follow along with the daily readings, daily bible verses and a whole host of prayers.

### WORD ON FIRE

A digital evangelization ministry run by Bishop Robert Barron has online resources including, videos, podcasts, articles, blogs, homilies, and much more. Visit [wordonfire.org](http://wordonfire.org)

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Join us for Mass and Stations of the Cross via livestream at [ap.church/livestream](http://ap.church/livestream)



# LITURGY & PRAYER

## POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY FROM URBI ET ORBI BLESSING

**March 27, 2020**

"When evening had come" (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus' attitude. While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he stands in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps on soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus' trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38). Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: "Do you not care about me?" It is a phrase

that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people's souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly "save" us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!".

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: "Be converted!", "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of

choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one” (Jn 17:21). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength,

support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. Is 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. 1 Pet 5:7).





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## PALM SUNDAY - LIVE STREAM

- All regular Sunday Mass times Live Streamed
- Passion narrative will be proclaimed.
- Mark your door at home with a palm from your garden or some sort of greenery to celebrate the day.

Because the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our faith, cannot be distributed at this time - we will also **not** be distributing palms this year.



## HOLY THURSDAY - LIVE STREAM AT 6:45PM

- Before Mass begins plan a Foot Washing ceremony for your family and pray John 13:4-10.
- Consider practicing a Seder Meal with your family.

At the conclusion of Mass the Eucharistic procession will be replaced by reposing the Eucharist in the main tabernacle which will be live streamed until Midnight.



## GOOD FRIDAY - LIVE STREAM AT 3PM

- 12PM - Stations of the Cross Live Streamed
- 3PM - Good Friday Liturgy Live Streamed
- 7PM - Divine Mercy Chaplet Live Streamed

Venerate a cross or crucifix within your own home with all family members during 3PM Live Stream. Good Friday is a day of fasting.



## HOLY SATURDAY - LIVE STREAM AT 8:30PM

- Easter Vigil is the most beautiful liturgy of the year as it ushers in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Light a candle in your home in a place of prominence to mimic the "Easter fire."

No **5PM** Vigil Mass for this weekend.

Catechumens will receive sacraments at a later date when public liturgy is permitted.



# EASTER SUNDAY

## ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN!

**7AM, 9AM, 11AM, & 6PM**  
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HAVE A FEAST TO CELEBRATE OUR RISEN LORD!

