

April 2, 2020  
St. Francis of Paola



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, "Pray, hope, and don't worry"! This is a rightly popular phrase attributed to St. Padre Pio and again, is appropriate for these extraordinary and painful times in which we find ourselves. As I wrote last week – "How deep is the meaning of St. Pio's words – a call to be close to Jesus Christ throughout the day and to trust in Him above all things, because as we know, *'All things work for the good of those who love Him'* as St. Paul writes (Rom 8:28)".

So how is your Lent progressing? Have you attempted to make your home into a semi-monastic setting during our shelter-in-place order? Lent is rapidly coming to an end, for next week we enter into Holy Week, preparing ourselves as best as we can, to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is not too late you redouble your efforts with the help of God's grace to continue with your Lenten resolution. All of our efforts in cooperation with God's grace does indeed make Him rather happy with us. The reason for this is because as small and weak as we are, He sees us struggling to walk in His footsteps. He is there with a loving and helping hand to help us along the way – much like a parent would with their child's first steps. This reality of our dear God should motivate us to keep trying with the knowledge that He is indeed there helping us to our heavenly home with Him. If you truly need to go to confession before Easter, I am available on Saturday at 11am at St. Christopher's and again at 5:30pm at St. Alice.

So what can one do practically speaking in order to prepare for Easter? Although the Holy Week liturgies will be celebrated in private, one can easily be united with the rest of Jesus' Body – His Church. First, daily prayer. In our semi-monastic setting in our homes, we can hopefully find some quiet and still times in order to bring before the Lord our many requests, intercessions and personal conversation with Him. Not only that, each of us has our bibles – the word of God – at our fingertips to receive instruction, light and inspiration from Him. Read it and meditate upon it. I also cannot recommend enough the daily rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. These are powerful spiritual weapons at our hands for the protection of our loved ones, parish and communities as well as being a profound act of mercy for the intercession of others in their needs. Second, watch Holy Mass online, on TV or listen to it on the radio:

Masses Online:

<https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live/united-states>

<https://dailytvmass.com/>

<http://www.usccb.org/>

Masses via cable, etc. (channel's will vary):

Dish 261

Direct TV 371

Cable (Spectrum) 285

Mass via radio:

Sunday morning at 10am on 103.5

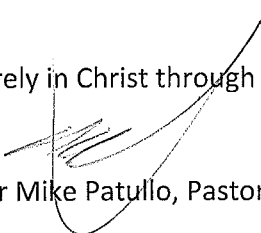
Remember to make the Act of Spiritual Communion during Mass and when you feel prompted to do so during the course of your day:

*"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."*

Thirdly, call one another. Check in and see how you can help (materially or spiritually) your neighbor and fellow parishioners. A parish community does precisely that. Our concern for others should be a natural overflowing of the charity that begins within our own hearts. Perhaps you can make the resolution to call three people daily. The good Lord has made us social creatures, like the angels in heaven, so let us live out His will in our lives here below.

As we approach Holy Week, take it one day at a time, deliberately and with focus. Start your day with the mass readings, ground yourselves in God's word and go forward from there. Let us continue to pray for one another and have a blessed Holy Week.

Sincerely in Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

  
Father Mike Patullo, Pastor