

30 March 2020

Updates from Father Jonathon

Praised be Jesus Christ! I would like to provide an update on a number of things:

1. **Thank you** – from both me and Father Rick – for your prayers, support, meals and words of kindness in these recent weeks. It means a lot to both of us.
2. If you are receiving this message electronically, I ask that you help share the information with those who are not connected to the parish electronically.
3. **Father Rick:** Fr. Rick did return home late Friday night and is doing okay. He had an ICD (implantable cardioverter defibrillator) put in. He will have three weeks of quarantine, no access to e-mail and no parish work. He may take some phone calls and text messages – as he is able. Thank you for your understanding if he is unable or slow to respond to communication.
4. **Meals.** Many people have offered to prepare meals for me and Fr. Rick. As Fr. Rick has some dietary restrictions, we ask that you coordinate Fr. Rick's meals through Lisa Schmitt (262.644.8818) – to help him keep to the restrictions and not be overwhelmed by food. Father Jonathon will pilfer through anything left on the porch of the rectory... 😊
5. **Holy Week:** As you have probably heard, the Archbishop has suspended the public celebration of Holy Week. **However, Holy Week is not cancelled. Jesus has still died for our sins, and risen from the dead!** Here are some details that we know as of right now.
 - **Palm Sunday:** On Sunday, April 5, 2020, Fr. Jonathon will celebrate Mass privately at 9:00 AM at Resurrection Church. The palms will be blessed before Mass. He will distribute the palms (with gloved hands) in a “drive-thru” – from 10:00-11:30 AM at Resurrection Church; from 12:00-1:30 PM at St. Lawrence Church; and from 2:00-4:00 PM at St. Peter Church.
 - **Holy Thursday:** Father Jonathon will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper privately at 7:00 PM at St. Peter;
 - **Good Friday:** Father Jonathon will celebrate the Good Friday Liturgy privately at 1:00 PM on April 10 at St. Lawrence.
 - **Holy Saturday:** The Easter Vigil Mass will be celebrated privately at 8:30 PM at St. Peter.
 - **Easter Sunday:** Father Jonathon will celebrate Mass privately at 10:00 AM at St. Peter.
 - We are working on ways to broadcast/stream the liturgies of these most holy days. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding. Changes will be communicated as best as possible.
6. The **bulletin** will continue to be available outside each church. Bulletins from *all* parishes are available at St. Peter. They are also available online on your parish website.

7. Saint Peter Church is open every day (**on behalf of all three parishes**) from 11 AM to 7 PM for private prayer for ten people at a time. Confessions will be offered from at 11 AM-Noon and 6-7PM.
8. **Trusting in God:** I am aware that this time is a very difficult, trying period – perhaps even challenging your faith. I encourage you to remain close to God and his Church – through your private prayer, by reaching out to the parish, by reading the Scriptures each day. I am also aware that some people would prefer we continue “business as usual” and push back more against current governmental regulations – regarding gatherings, opening churches, etc. Yes, we trust in God. But God also made us rational beings – therefore, we also find science and its research and recommendations – a *necessary* part of human life. It is no coincidence that the Church has always been the leader in scientific research. Therefore, as faithful Christians, we rely both on faith *and* reason as we move through this unprecedented time in the history of Christ’s Church.
9. **Finally – know how much we love and care about you and your families! If we can be of help in anyway, please feel free to call us.**

May Our Lady of Good Help pray for us, our families, and those who are helping to keep us safe!

May God’s assistance remain with us always,

In the Heart of Jesus,

Father Jonathon Schmeckel