



2020: A Holy Week and Easter for the History Books!

Please Join Us!

Holy Week, the Triduum, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday are not being cancelled!
However, they will be celebrated differently than ever before in history!
While this may be discouraging, let's make the most of a very difficult and challenging international public health crisis where we are all part of the solution.
Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and "social distancing" regulations, the previous schedule of services mailed to you and posted online has changed to the following in an ONLINE LIVE STREAMED format only.

Schedule of Services:

Holy Thursday Mass, April 9th - Live streamed at 7:00 pm
Good Friday Service, April 10th – Live streamed at 5:30 pm in English & 7:00 pm in Spanish
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 11th – Live streamed at 8:00 pm
Easter Sunday, April 12th – Live streamed English Mass at 11:00 am & Spanish Mass at 12:30 pm

We promise you a very prayerful, solemn and beautiful celebration of each of these sacred liturgical events. Live streaming will be from our St. Peter's Parish Sanctuary, with Fr. Norman Ermis and Fr. Rudy Vela, SM, as Celebrants, Mr. Joe Cortez leading music and song, Parish Staff members as Proclaimers of the Word, and Deacon Mike Matteson and Deacon Paul Rayburg assisting. Behind the scenes will be Christina Galvez, Communications Director, and Tommy Macias, Videographer.

How to connect online to join our services:

From your home computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone, go to:

WEBSITE - stpetersboerne.com

FACEBOOK – facebook.com/StPetersBoerne

Let us share our faith and reconnect with our parish community and friends
to
praise and worship God for his saving power and new life!

When the pandemic is over, we shall rise again stronger than before!

Alleluia!

Note: view or read Fr. Norm's March 25th "A Pastor's Reflections on the Coronavirus Pandemic," a message of hope and inspiration for parishioners posted on our parish website and Facebook page.

Fr. Norman's Message of Easter Joy and Hope

All of us have been forced to adapt every aspect of our lives due to the ramifications of the coronavirus pandemic. It has cast a pall over us and filled us with uncertainty, anxiety, dread, fear and panic. However, I have seen in myself, family, friends, parish staff and parishioners bursts of extra energy, innovation, creativity and new ideas in meeting the demands of the "new normal" and to make it through this experience the least scathed as families. The Spring weather has been sensational and inviting! With more families than usual on walks, jogs and runs, a common joke is that people are treating this as a mini-vacation rather than a true self-quarantine reality.

Joking aside, I am amazed at how cooperative the majority of people in the United States are in following the best public health care directives to radically decrease the negative impact on human life and our economy. I truly believe people are trying to be a part of the solution. That motivates us to strive for the common good and the health and welfare of everyone worldwide.

Metaphorically it is said that we should "Never let anyone rain on our party." While the Catholic Church has cooperated with all dimensions of public health directives, even cancelling public celebrations of weekend Masses, Holy Week and Easter, we will not cancel our solemn celebrations or be dampened or "rained out." We are being creative with our live streaming each of these beautiful, solemn, and traditional liturgical events.

We join together for these liturgical celebrations as a "virtual community of faith" by means of live streaming from our St. Peter's Sanctuary to your homes and families. As we pray and worship together using these technologies, I hope that each family will find creative means of extending the liturgies and their potential spiritual impact on our lives. For example, after the Holy Thursday Mass, which usually includes the Washing of the Feet but cannot be done without a congregation, families could share in a mutual washing of feet of each family member around their kitchen table or family room. Another example would be for families for the Good Friday Service to have a cross with the corpus of Jesus as a focal point. Then at the time of Veneration of the Cross each family member can venerate the cross in their own way as our staff does it live streamed from our sanctuary. For the Easter Masses, families could safely have a lit candle in the center of their home worship space while participating in the live streamed Mass as a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World, who has Resurrected from the dead. Finally, after participating in either the Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday Mass live streamed, the family could follow-up with each family member sharing how they have experienced the Resurrection of Jesus and new life going through this coronavirus pandemic. Even children, if given the opportunity, can share profound insights!

We are exultant as Christian people because Christ has, indeed, risen from the dead. His light overcomes darkness of any kind or form in the world. The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses, with their powerful Scripture readings and rich symbols and rituals, connect us to our ancestors in the faith, sharing the one faith and hope. All the Scripture readings highlight God's unconditional love for His people and help us celebrate Christ's Resurrection by recalling the history of God's saving action.

I truly believe that our experience of Lent, Holy Week, the Triduum, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday has been intensified due to the required coronavirus restrictions on our gatherings, movements and social engagements. We have been deprived of so many additional things, sacrificed and suffered together, prayed more fervently, and deepened our relationship with Jesus Christ. The Easter message of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a validation of God's presence and victory in our lives, our liberation of all that binds us, and new life, peace and hope. Allow that enduring message to reassure us that we will be stronger and more faith-filled when we defeat this virus and return to normal, but renewed and restored, ways of life!

