



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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Pine City, Mn. 55063

Msgr. Aleksander Suchan, Pastor

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Dear Parishioners,

Every Lenten season is, one way or another, challenging. Usually we challenge ourselves by giving up some things and taking on things we don't usually do. Each of these things we do for Lent is sort of a personal sacrifice intended to improve our inner, spiritual life, our prayer life and ultimately prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, Easter.

This year Lent is more challenging than ever. It is harder and more challenging for you, since you are not able to participate in Sunday Mass in either of our churches. It is hard and challenging for me because, although I celebrate the Mass every day, and although I can feel your prayerful support, the pews are empty.

I want to thank you for your support. It is incredible seeing some of you in our church every day, if only for a couple of minutes of private prayer. It was so uplifting and strengthening last Saturday night and Sunday morning seeing many of you coming to church to pray, to read the Sunday reading, or to go to Confession. I thank you for that! It is very strong spiritual support. I thank you for being faithful.

I also want to thank you for the financial support you continue to provide for our parishes by mailing checks, giving electronically or just giving when you come to the church for prayer. I am even more grateful, knowing how hard it is to make ends meet these days.

The most important days in our Church Calendar are approaching. With Palm Sunday we begin Holy Week and, within it, the Three Most Holy Days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. All of them leading us to the Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection, Easter Sunday.

As difficult as it can be, please make these days as holy as possible, by dedicating more time for prayer, more Scripture Readings, especially those selected for Sundays and for the Holy Week Liturgy, praying either in our church or in your home, with your families. Let us be united in prayer.

"Don't be afraid; just have faith" (Mark 5:36)

I hope to see you soon in *church*.

Msgr. Alek Suchan

*P.S. Nothing will make me happier than having to change all these plans because we'll be allowed to gather in our churches for Easter!*

Here is the plan from now through April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Immaculate Conception Church will be open, every day from 9 to noon, except Thursday's from 9 AM-6 PM for Adoration (please use north entrance #3), for anyone who wishes to come and pray before the Lord in the tabernacle. Tuesday, March 31 there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Patrick's church in Hinckley. Fr. Joseph Sirba and I will be hearing Confessions from 6:30. Privacy and a safe distance will be secured. Saturday, April 4 and Sunday April 5 we observe Palm Sunday. I will celebrate a private Mass and bless palm branches, as we always do on Palm Sunday. Then I plan to go outside the church through the main entrance, and at the curb on 8th Street hand those blessed palms to you. Please come to receive one. I will bless all of you, in each approaching car, and hand you palm branches.

#### Holy Week Schedule

##### **Palm Sunday**

##### **Saturday April 4**

Church is open at 3:30 PM

4:00 – 5:00 PM Confession

5:30 PM - Curbside blessing and distribution of palm branches

##### **Sunday, April 5**

Church is open at 8:00

9:00 – 9:30 AM – Confession

10:00 AM – Curbside blessing and distribution of palm branches

##### **Tuesday April 7**

Church is open at 9:00 AM – Noon

9:30 – 10 AM – Confession

Church is open 6:00 – 7:30 PM

6:30 – 7:30 PM – Confession (Fr.Sirba and Msgr. Suchan)

##### **Wednesday April 8**

Church is open at 9:00 AM – Noon

9:00 – 10:00 AM Confession

##### **April 9, Holy Thursday**

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Adoration

4:30 – 5:30 PM Confession

##### **April 10, Good Friday**

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM Church is open for private prayer and private veneration of the Cross

##### **April 11, Holy Saturday**

5:00 – 7:00 PM Church is open for private prayers

7:00 PM – Curbside Easter blessings and distribution of Newly Blessed Water

##### **April 12, Easter Sunday**

Church is open 8:30 – 11:00 AM

10:00 AM – Curbside Easter blessings and distribution of Newly Blessed Water

“Curbside services” will take place in the front of the church on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, driving southbound