April 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Parish,

Grace, health and peace to you all as Holy Week approaches. I hope that these extraordinary measures that we are undertaking to mitigate the spread of the virus may bear some good fruit in your Lenten journey. This can be especially true during Holy Week, as we may have unusual or extra time for prayer, meditation and reflection.

**Palms for Palm Sunday**

Palms will be available in the back of the church beginning Saturday morning at 9am. They will be available throughout the weekend. Please use the Adoration Chapel door, as it is the only door that is open to the church. Our church cleaning team has been hypervigilant to keep that entry way sanitized several times a day.

**Holy Week**

Archbishop George Lucas will be livestreaming the entirely of Holy Week Liturgies from our beautiful Cathedral of St. Cecilia. I am encouraging all parishioners who wish to view these liturgies as they are live streamed to join me in joining our Shepherd to do so. (At the time I wrote this the links to livestream the Liturgies had not yet been sent me.) The complete schedule is below.

* + 1. Palm Sunday (4/5): 9:00am
    2. Chrism Mass (4/6): 11:00am
    3. Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper (4/9): 7:00pm
    4. Good Friday Commemoration of the Passion (4/10): 7:00pm
    5. Easter Vigil (4/12): 8:00pm

Some parishes are livestreaming liturgies from their own empty churches. We determined that logistics here at St. Elizabeth Ann Church would make doing so prohibitive. Our technology, equipment, lighting and sound system would make producing a worthy quality livestream impossible. And when the Archdiocese is producing beautiful, high production value liturgies from the Cathedral, why not join our Archbishop in prayer.

Additionally, EWTN will be broadcasting liturgies from the Vatican and from the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC. Mass for Shut Ins is at 10:30am on WOWT for Palm Sunday. Archbishop Lucas will do the Mass for Shut Ins on Easter Sunday morning at 10:30am.

**Confessions**

I will hear confessions from 4-5pm on Saturday and from 7-8pm on Monday of Holy Week. Monday evening was to have been our communal penance service.

**Receptions into the Church**

Our catechumen Raegan and our candidate Katie are fully prepared and were to have been brought into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Tentative plans now (given us from the Archdiocese) are to do that at the Vigil for Pentecost, Saturday evening May 30 at the 5pm Mass.

I am keeping very busy ministering to the sick, the elderly and those with understandable anxiety about this situation. Please help me by looking out for fellow parishioners, especially those in need. Check on your neighbors. If you know of parishioners who do not have email, please print out a copy of these pastoral letters from me and distribute a hardcopy to them. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society outreach here at the parish remains active. This includes our food pantry. Please call the office to let us know of needs. Most of all, let us continue to keep one another in prayer!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Ryan P. Lewis