Dear Parishioners,

To say that these are difficult times is certainly an understatement. However, we stand together by faith though separated by physical distance (social distancing). This is the first time in my life that Holy Week will be celebrated as if we were cloistered in separate hermitages. For those of you living with family, consider your family home as cloistered monastery for this year’s Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week.

Our inability to gather together in the church notwithstanding, I am going to celebrate the most Sacred Week in our liturgical year with open mind and a lively spirit, and I invite all of you to do likewise. The church, as we know it today, began in someone’s living room (someone’s home – the Upper Room of the Lord’s Supper). Please, turn your home into a replica of that first gathering place of Jesus and his disciples. Celebrate the liturgies by reading the scriptures and praying together. A few of us (not more than ten) will assemble in the Church to celebrate the Solemn Liturgies of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum as follows:

1. The Mass of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: Saturday, April 4, 2020, at 4:00 PM.
2. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 8:00 P.M.
3. The Passion of Lord on Good Friday, April 10, 2020, at 3:00 P.M.
4. The Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020, at 8:00 P.M.
5. Easter Sunday, Aril 12, 2020: Masses at 8:30 A.M., 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon.
6. These liturgies will be streamed live on the parish Facebook page; we invite you to join us.
7. The church will be opened for you every day, from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., for your personal visits and private prayer. However, during the hours of the above scheduled Masses, the church WILL NOT BE ACCESSIBLE. We crave your indulgences, that you time your visits outside those hours. Please, enter through the Weekday Entrances.
8. There are no scheduled times for confession. However, if you urgently need the benefits of the sacrament, you may call any of the priests to schedule a private confession.
9. The parish priests will continue to celebrate private Masses for your intentions, the intentions of the parish, and for the whole world.
10. Sacraments such as Anointing of the Sick, Viaticum, and burial services, will be celebrated in emergencies.
11. On Monday afternoons (1:00 - 4:00 P.M.), the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Main Altar of the church for individual private adoration.
12. For our convenience and safety, the church will be cleaned and disinfected weekly. The church will be closed during those hours (Tuesdays 12:00 – 3:00 P.M.).
13. The Pastoral Center and Private Chapel are closed to parishioners until further notice. Consequently, there will be no devotions or adoration in that Chapel during this period of “Total ban on social and religious gatherings.”
14. Bins are placed in front of the Pastoral Center and in the church as drop-off receptacles for your weekly offering envelopes and supplies for the food pantry.
15. Parishioners who cannot join our parish liturgies on Facebook are encouraged to tune in to the Catholic Faith Network (CFN) to participate in the liturgies via TV network (Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471).

In the meanwhile, let us obediently observe all the precautions and stay safe and healthy.

Let us continually pray for Divine intervention that the scourge of the coronavirus may soon be eradicated from the world. May Mary, our Blessed Mother, intercede for us with her son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal all the afflicted, and gather those who have died into the eternal kingdom.

Fr. Seth.