

Holy Week and Easter

Dear Parishioners:

As we prepare to enter the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, it is the first time in my priesthood that we will do remotely. A reminder: we will live stream Holy Thursday on our Facebook site at 7pm; Good Friday at 3pm; Easter Sunday at 10am. If you do not have Facebook, go to our parish website and click on "Follow Us on Facebook." Also, we communicate to parishioners by Flock Note, but we need your email address to do so. You can also click on "Bulletin" on our website to get our messages.

- (1) Once again, thank you for your donations of food and best wishes. Holy Thursday celebrates the last meal of Jesus. At this time please consider those who are not able to feed their families. Our local food pantries are in desperate need. Please consider donating. Our parish recently presented the Tarrytown-Sleepy Hollow Pantry with a \$2500 donation.
- (2) Everything at the parish is quiet. However, I am steeling myself for an extraordinarily busy fall filled with baptisms, weddings, and memorial masses, all delayed because of the pandemic. I have not made a decision about my August cruise, but I am leaning toward canceling. I will decide by late May.
- (3) Our "Make A Donation" app on our parish website has proven to be an initial success. In the 3 days since its inception we received 10 donations. Thank you very much. Again, thank you to everyone who mailed or dropped off their envelopes. Our normal Easter collection is around \$25,000. We will be lucky to make half of that. Be as generous as you can, considering the financial needs of your family. We continue to pay all our employees. The plan right now is for the diocese to apply, on behalf of all the parishes and institutions, the financial relief Congress has passed. It is anyone's guess how long this will take. Because of your generosity we are in a much better financial position than the majority of parishes in the diocese. As for the Cardinal's Appeal, we have surpassed the 50% mark. So far, so good. What is not so good are the countless families struggling financially during this crisis: cooks, waiters, hair dressers, baristas, and the invisible army of American who are the engine of our economy. Let us remember them.
- (4) I spoke with Fr. Reynolds this past week. He is fine but in lockdown. He cannot leave his room. 3 retired priests died last week, 2 from the virus. 3 others are in critical condition at different health facilities. My own classmate, a pastor in Staten Island, is on a ventilator. Last week a representative of the cardinal called me to ask if I was still in the Army reserves. I retired in 2014 after 33 years. I think he wanted to know if he will be losing any priests who might be activated. His concern is justified. We will be ordaining only one

- priest next month for the archdiocese. We are in very serious trouble, but this should not come as a surprise to anyone. I have been asked twice this week if I still intend to retire next year, considering this new set of circumstances. The short answer is yes. But who knows? If our economy slides into a long recession or a depression, or the needs of our diocese threaten its future viability (which is not, in my opinion, unthinkable), I will revisit my response.
- (5) I do not know about you, but I do miss music at our liturgical services. Ann Holland has offered to assist. However, the cardinal has made it clear to all pastors that he does not want any ministers gathering inside our churches. Understandable.
 - (6) Last Sunday we ran out of palm. One possible reason is that our surrounding parishes were not distributing palm, holding it for some future date to be determined by the diocese. I decided not to wait. Others were feeding at our trough! As a consequence, we ran out.
 - (7) If you are in need of a notary, let me know. I have been a notary over 30
 - (8) I would like to give a shout-out to all our medical personnel, our first responders, delivery drivers, postal workers, truck drivers, transit employees, supermarket personnel, farmers, etc., who help us experience some normalcy during this crisis.
 - (9) On this Easter weekend, I wish all our families the blessings of the Risen Lord. As the Risen Christ gave hope to Mary Magdalene and the disciples, may he strengthen our families and our nation. Let Us Pray:

Almighty and Eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress, in faith we pray:

Look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders, and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your name. Amen.

CARDINAL'S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2020:

As of 4/3/2020

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>Donor Goal</u>
\$48,000	\$28,095	61	130

To make your gift online, visit cardinalsappeal.org.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Reminder: Please do not tape or staple the envelopes. Just seal them. The tape or staple causes problems with D. P. Murphy when they calculate the envelopes. Thank you so much!

ANYONE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE? Please contact rectory at 914-631-0529 if you need help during this difficult time (food shopping, etc.).