

A LETTER FROM FATHER DANIEL CARUSO

3/27/2020

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to you to update you on what is happening at the parish. It seems like ages since this all began and yet it's been less than two weeks. Things are changing from day to day and we are all struggling to adapt.

In my last letter I told you that the times for Confession that were scheduled would still take place. Since then the Bishop has cancelled the Light Is On night of Confessions scheduled for April 6th. I hoped and prayed that we could still go on with the other times, but having sought the opinion of other clergy, the staff, and lay leadership in the parish, I am sorry to inform you that we are canceling the scheduled times for Confession. We felt that it was impossible for us, with limited staffing, to adequately safeguard the health those coming to the church. If you desire to receive the Sacrament please call the rectory and we can arrange a time for you to come to the church.

On Tuesday we began to Live Stream daily Mass from the convent chapel at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter. Daily Mass will be live-streamed Monday through Friday on the parish's Facebook page: Our Lady of Pompei/ St. Peter's Church. Sunday Mass will be live-streamed each week at 11:00 AM. There will be a different schedule for the live-streamed Masses for Palm Sunday and Easter; we are also planning to live-stream services for Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Details for all of those services will be in my letter to you next week.

Until last weekend I stubbornly refused to use Facebook; during this past week I have realized that it can be put to great use at a time like this. If you are already on Facebook I would ask you to check frequently on either the Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter or the St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Facebook pages. If you are not on Facebook but do have a computer, I encourage you to either join Facebook or to visit the websites of Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter. I am encouraging that particular site only because I have easier access to post on that site. I am still technologically challenged and will take whatever help I can get.

It is my hope that after we live-stream the Mass on Palm Sunday that we will open both churches and make blessed palm available to those who would like to come and bring some home. We are still working out the logistics for that to happen. Final arrangements will be in my letter to you next week.

Finally, while we are separated by distance I encourage us to try to be united in prayer. I have heard from many of you how much you miss being able to celebrate the Eucharist. I believe this crisis is helping us to focus on what is most essential in life. There are a number of opportunities to participate in Mass remotely, either through viewing a live-streamed Mass or watching Mass on TV. I would ask that each of us that are not present in church for Mass to make an Act of Spiritual Communion each day. We can pray this at Communion time during a recorded Mass or as part of our daily prayers.

This is an Act of Spiritual Communion from St. Alphonsus Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

I look forward to the day when we can once again join together at the Lord's Table. Until then, let us continue to pray for one another.

In Christ, Fr. Caruso