

# A LETTER FROM FATHER DANIEL CARUSO

4/3/2020

Dear Parishioners,

Holy Week will soon be upon us and I wanted to give you an update on what we have planned in our parishes. (Please realize that these plans are as of when I write this letter; so much is changing so fast that we need to remember that some plans may change at the last minute.) In my last letter I told you I had hoped that we would be able to open the churches on Palm Sunday for people to come, pray, and take the blessed palm home. We received direction from the diocese earlier this week that palms are not to be distributed at this time. They do not believe that we can adequately guarantee the health and safety of those involved with the distribution of palm. The diocese does say that the church can be open for private prayer; at this time, however, the decision has been made to not open our church building. The health crisis in our county is expected to reach its peak sometime around Holy Week. The risk to the vulnerable members of our community is too great.

Holy Week service will take place. Those in attendance will include the priest, a music minister, a lector and a server. No more than ten people are to be present. These services will be live streamed. The services in English will be on the Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter's Church Facebook page. The services in Vietnamese will be on Fr. John Nguyen's Facebook page: John Nguyen.

The schedule for Holy Week is as follows:

## PALM SUNDAY

Mass in English — 8:00 AM Mass in Vietnamese — 9:15 AM

## HOLY THURSDAY

Mass in English — 6:00 PM Mass in Vietnamese — 7:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY Service in English — 3:00 PM Service in Vietnamese — 5:30

## EASTER SUNDAY

Mass in English — 8:00 AM Mass in Vietnamese — 9:15 AM

I encourage all those who can to join us in prayer from home. To those who will not be able to join us remotely, I encourage you to take some time for prayer during the times of these services. We have included several pages of suggestions on how to keep our life of prayer strong during these difficult times.

I realize that this is not easy for any of us. These days are for us the most important of the year. To not be able to gather together, to not be in our churches that are so dear to us, is a heavy cross. I would ask that as we reflect the journey Jesus took carrying

His cross that we will embrace this cross now offered to us, remembering that the end of the journey of the cross is, for Jesus and for us, Eternal Glory.

Be assured of my prayers for each of you during these holy days; please remember to pray for me.

In Christ, Fr. Caruso