

April 2020

This Sunday we read the gospel story of the raising of Lazarus (Jn 11). At a critical moment in the text, Jesus asks Martha “Do you believe?” As she answers yes to His question, we are all reminded that the story goes much further. The question is, after all, really intended for each of us. Do we believe? Do we believe that the light is stronger than the darkness? Will we believe, like Martha, that He is here even though everything we know seems to be changing all around us, even if only for a time? It’s a hard question for all of us to answer.

Rest assured that Fr. Thomas and I are keeping you all in prayer as we celebrate masses privately and remember the special needs of every one of you. Starting this weekend, you will be able to “participate” in the mass celebrated at one of our sites. The Sunday Mass will be available on our website. We will also pray the Rosary as we have done on Tuesday nights. You will find access to that on the website as well. If the shutdown continues beyond the next two weeks, we will do the same for our Holy Week celebrations. Please check the website – www.mphwa.org – often for updates. For those without computer access, there are also televised celebrations of the mass every day.

Thanks to the many parish members who have made a commitment to the parish by turning in the pledge cards. If you haven’t already done so, please consider making a pledge for 2020. Thanks also to those who have made a special contribution to the Festival Replacement fund. We welcome your donations any time before June 30th this year. Even in these difficult times, we have an obligation to plan for our future. Thank you also to the many who have made contributions to our Lenten Giving Project, “Congo Helping Hands”. We will continue the collection for the time being and make sure that the money goes to them quickly.

This time of separation from the Eucharist and from each other will help us to grow closer together in prayer. I hope that it will also strengthen our bonds as a parish community. As Jesus said when he healed the daughter of Jairus, “Fear is useless, what is needed here is faith!” (Mk 5:36). Let’s all open the doors of our heart to the Lord to see that new life always follows the darkest times. The new Archbishop of Philadelphia mentioned something the other day at his installation. At every Confirmation he makes the young people memorize this little saying. “Never underestimate the power of the Spirit of God working in you, through you and in spite of you!”. Though we might not know how, God is here through it all and in us all.

May you have a Blessed and Happy Easter. Stay safe, stay healthy and remember that our real strength comes from faith which looks beyond the darkness and rejoices in the light that comes from an empty tomb.

Blessings to all of you! Fr. Jeff and Fr. Thomas