

## *Easter Week 2020*

*Dear Friends,*

The **Holy Week** celebrations and **Easter Mass** are behind us as we have begun our **50 Day Great Season of Easter!** No more *fasting* so to speak, just *feasting* in the presence of the Risen Lord! It was AMAZING to see so many of you on Palm Sunday for Blessed Palms and the *give-aways* for the Easter Season! Thank you for taking the time to drive on up and see us (*social distancing*) and for us to see you! We are indeed a blessed parish family!

How blessed we are to have been able to *give away* the Easter plants on Holy Saturday, thanks to the generosity of Casa Verde and Petitti's! What a great gift and I hope the beauty of the Easter lily fills your heart with thankfulness and prayers for all and for those who are less fortunate and experiencing loss and sadness in this very difficult time. Many volunteers delivered these to our homebound. That was GREAT! THANKS to you!

You can all imagine how DIFFERENT it was for me to celebrate the Holy Week Triduum and Easter Mass without you. Looking out to EMPTY pews, I did pray that our hearts were FULL of the joy and splendor of the Season; knowing that we will be together soon! Not being together is a hardship, but as we learn from the news and information, being apart WILL *seal the deal* as the curve flattens and the numbers decline! So stay strong. Pray. And pray some more! We will be together soon and #We Are In This Together!

We will continue to broadcast Mass for you on the Sundays of Easter and continue to communicate through the various media opened up for us as a parish family: email, website, Video broadcast, Facebook, You Tube and the like! It IS a new normal and your response to this has been so positive! Stay tuned in and turned on! THANKS!

Sadly, with the continued STAY ORDER First Communion Celebration for May 3<sup>rd</sup> IS going to be RESCHEDULED and Confirmation Celebration for May 9<sup>th</sup> IS also going to be RESCHEDULED to a later date, both of which have NOT been determined. We will keep you posted on that!

**Our office staff and personnel are continuing to work both from the office and at home. We want you to know we are here for you – call and leave a message, email, text, etc...**

**FYI:** In the days to come, I will be writing a more *in-depth report* of Income – Expenses and WHAT the impacts of the decline in the Sunday Collection WILL mean for us. We ARE presently doing the best we can as directed by our Diocesan Finance Office and will keep you informed.

On behalf of all of us, a personal THANK YOU for everything you have given to SUPPORT the parish and school. Your continued generosity is a testament to our faith! THANKS!

Stay strong! Pray and pray some more! We will be together soon!

*Fr. John*