

Message from Fr. David – 4/4/2020

Welcome to my home again. It's Saturday, April 4th. I hope and pray that you, our families and friends of St. Alexander Church, are staying home as much as possible, staying healthy through social distancing, and staying close to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This weekend we begin our journey through Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday. While we will not be handing out palms this weekend, we hope to do so after our emergency sheltering is over.

These are the holiest days of the year for us; they remain holy even when we cannot gather together as a parish community. These are the days when we remember the greatest mysteries of our faith. These are the days when we walk with Christ through his passion, death and resurrection. Especially now, when our entire human community is passing through a difficult moment, we need to remember Christ's sacrifice for us and the promise of eternal life. Christians all over the world are facing the same struggle and celebrating the same great mysteries. This year as every year, these holy days unite us with our brothers and sisters in Christ in every corner of the planet.

So I invite you to take whatever steps you can to remember that these days are holy. Even if it's just for a few moments, try to spend some time in prayer. You may wish to reflect on the stories from scripture, pray the Stations of the Cross together with your family, or watch one of the many live streamed services available. But what is most important is that we spend some time with God. Offer up whatever fears, uncertainties or struggles we have; let Christ transform them on the cross and lead us to the glory of the resurrection.

Throughout this time, I encourage you to continue to maintain and strengthen your contacts with family, friends and neighbors. I've had some good, long talks with several of my brothers and sisters this past week, as well as with a number of you. I feel blessed by your phone calls, text messages, and emails. I feel very blessed by your prayers for our parish community, and for me. Thank you so very much. I am sorry that I am not able to respond to all your messages that you send my way.

Finally, I would like to say a word about our parish finances. St. Alexander Church is entirely dependent on the financial contributions of you, our parishioners. I know that many of you are facing financial uncertainty because of loss of work. None of us knows what the future holds. But I do wish to ask for your continued financial support of our parish, to the extent possible. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give at this time. Your ongoing support will enable us to keep our staff and programs in place and our facilities maintained so that we are ready to return to full speed with our parish ministries as soon as it is safe to do so. Please note that I would prefer you make your donations to the parish offertory program (that is, our normal Sunday collection) at this time, rather than to the building project (the green envelopes). We will come back to the building project once we make it through this emergency time. For now, we need your support for the normal operating expenses of our parish community. Thank you so much for considering this request and for your generous support. This coming week we will have

more information on our parish web site regarding how to make financial contributions during this time of emergency sheltering.

Let us now conclude our time together with prayer:

1. For Pope Francis, Archbishop Sample, and our Church leaders and government leaders throughout the world. May God bless them with wisdom, understanding and knowledge as they lead us through these difficult times. We pray to the Lord.
2. For those who are sick in our families, in our parish, and throughout the world, especially those suffering from this virus, Covid-19. May God grant them healing and strength. We pray to the Lord.
3. For doctors, nurses, first responders, and all those caring for the sick. May God give them safety, protection, and well-being. We pray to the Lord.
4. For all those serving our communities by providing the essential services to keep us going. May God keep them safe. We pray to the Lord.
5. For all children and young people, whose innocence and hope may be challenged by this pandemic. May God calm their fears and sustain their exemplary joy. We pray to the Lord.

Our Father...Hail Mary...

The Lord be with you.

May God bless you in this Holy Week,

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.