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St. John Vianney Catholic Church

*"I will show you the way to heaven."
– St. John Vianney*



April 1, 2020

SJV Newsletter - Wednesday of the 5th Week of Lent

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the month of April! I imagine that many of you wish this coronavirus was an April Fool's joke and we could go back to normal, but sadly that isn't the case. Nevertheless, it is beautiful to see how many people are persevering during this struggle to continue to assist and care for their fellow neighbor, whether it be first responders, medical professionals, public servants and many more. Please take a moment to see and appreciate the good that so many people are doing.

Speaking of the good works so many people are doing, I am noticing many online resources being made free that weren't previously. For instance you can now go to <https://us.magnificat.net/free> and access their publication online for free. There is also a MagnifiKid! online edition available for those 6-12 years of age. This coming Holy Week will be celebrated at home, and this is a great resource for daily prayers and reflections. There are many other free resources you can find at <http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/covid-19-crisis-resources-from-catholic-publishers.cfm>.

It is hard to believe that this coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. From the bishop's office, it is stated that the distribution of palms may be done at the pastor's discretion. Thus, you are welcome to come and pick up palms outside of St. John Vianney Catholic Church during the normal times that Mass would take place. Following the directives there are a few things to keep in mind:

- The distribution will take place outside of buildings. The building will still be locked.
- Parishioners must remain in their vehicles and can only take enough palms for themselves and their immediate family members. You are not to take palms to unrelated persons.
- The following are times at which you may pick up palms:
 - 4:30-5:30pm Saturday, April 4.
 - 8:00-9:00am Sunday, April 5.
 - 10:30-11:30am Sunday April 5.

Bishop Doherty's March 27 letter is the latest update which can be read at <https://www.dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>. Just a reminder that Bishop Doherty has mandated the suspension of all public celebrations of the Mass, other liturgical services and gatherings of the faithful effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 until further notice. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass from March 13, 2020 continues until further notice. It is not a permanent dispensation.

Finally, you are invited to submit photos to the Catholic Moment to show what Family Faith Activities you are doing at home. Please send pictures to moment@dol-in.org by Monday, April 6 and help share your creative ideas with your fellow Catholics.

In Christ,

Fr. Tony Rowland