



St. Jude Church

50 Edgewood Rd. NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
319-390-3520

April 3, 2020

Dear St. Jude Parishioners,

This weekend, with Palm Sunday, our Church begins Holy Week, the most sacred time of the year for Christians when we commemorate Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, his suffering and death on our behalf, and his Resurrection through which he won victory over sin and death. In preparation for this time, here are some things I want to share with you.

1) For health reasons, we will not distribute palms this year. There will be no public celebrations of Mass for Holy Week or Easter. At St. Jude I will celebrate these liturgies privately. They will be livestreamed online and then stored on the St. Jude Church Cedar Rapids YouTube webpage. The following is the schedule for liturgical celebrations, and like everything else during this fluid time, it's subject to change! Even if you are not watching us online, I encourage you to join us in prayer during these times.

Saturday, April 4, 7:00 PM – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 PM – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 10, 6:00 AM – Friday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, April 11, 8:30 PM – Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 12, 6:00 AM – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

2) To access the St. Jude Church Cedar Rapids YouTube page please go to the parish website – judes.org. Please check this website regularly for updates. Also, visit the website of the Archdiocese of Dubuque – dbqarch.org – for updates.

3) As long as possible, the church continues to be open from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM seven days a week for private prayer. No more than ten people are allowed at a time, and social distancing rules must be followed. Some common surfaces are being cleaned regularly. Additionally, I am available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment. You can call the parish office and leave a message at 319-390-3520 or email m.murphy@dbqarch.org.

4) Thank you to all who continue to support St. Jude Church through financial stewardship during this time. Thank you to all who continue to support Metro Catholic Outreach (MCO) with food donations during this time. **IF** you are in a financial position to do so, please continue with your financial stewardship. The parish office is closed, but currently it is staffed Monday – Friday from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM to accept financial contributions and MCO donations. The office will no longer be staffed in the evenings. Financial contributions may also be made via the parish website – judes.org/donate.

The disciples of Jesus probably could not have imagined the transition from his joyful arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his betrayal and crucifixion only a few days later. Likewise, we could not have imagined this type of Holy Week when we celebrated Ash Wednesday almost

forty days ago. But the most unimaginable thing, the most joyful thing, is what we will celebrate a week from Palm Sunday. An angel of the Lord gives us a glimpse of this unimaginable joy in the Gospel from the Easter Vigil:

*Do not be afraid. I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.
He is not here, for he has been raised, just as he said.*

Our parish family of faith remains in my daily prayers during this holy time.

~Father Mark Murphy