

# The Roman Catholic Parishes of Cape Elizabeth, Scarborough, and South Portland, Maine

Dear Parishioners,

We are embarking on our third week of our community gathering virtually. It is in these times that we look to the Scriptures for guidance.

May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Psalm 33:22

Let us continue to call on God's love to be poured out upon the first responders, nurses, doctors, manufacturers, researchers, and all of us who are now staying at home. It is our faith, hope, and prayer that will bring us through these uncertain times.

Thank you to all who have been participating in our Sunday video Mass. Our video Mass from the Fifth Sunday of Lent reached 483 families. This is up from 375 from the week before. It is encouraging to see the number growing. Fr. Innocent and I continue to be grateful for those who pray with us and to all who reached out to us after the mass. Thank you for your continued support.

Holy Week begins this Sunday, April 5 through Sunday, April 12. The locations of services are being scheduled in rotation with some modifications due to access to the internet and availability of staff. Below are the locations and the times when these celebrations are will be posted to **cluster22.org**:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Celebration</u>	<u>Videotaped Location</u>	<u>Posted to website by</u>
Saturday, April 4/5	Palm Sunday	St Maximilian Kolbe	5PM
Thursday, April 9	Holy Thursday	St Maximilian Kolbe	5:30PM
Friday, April 10	Good Friday	St John & Holy Cross	3:30PM
Saturday, April 11	Easter Vigil	St Maximilian Kolbe	8PM (Live Streamed)
Sunday, April 12	Easter Sunday	St Bartholomew	7:30AM

The only way to see the Easter Vigil at 8PM on Saturday, April 11, is on our Facebook page. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/C22C/parishes>

We have received calls and emails about the distribution of Palms. The Diocese has informed us that the blessing and distribution of palms has been suspended. This is just one more way we are being asked to yearn for those sacramentals and traditions of our faith.

To respect Governor Mills, Stay Healthy at Home mandate, we will not be having Reconciliation until that mandate is lifted. Remember, when it is impossible to receive sacramental absolution, one can make a Perfect contrition which requires:

The love of God

The sincere desire for forgiveness

The ardent commitment to receive the sacrament of reconciliation when available

To ensure everyone's safety, please do not drop your envelopes off at the office. Instead, mail your offertory envelopes to 150 Black Point Rd Scarborough, ME 04074 or consider joining WeShare which you can find at cluster22.org and then to the online giving tab.

Thank you to all parishioners for checking in on each other. If you need help getting groceries or medications, please contact Kris Benson (207-883-0334 x227, [kris.benson@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:kris.benson@portlanddiocese.org)). We already have ten people eager to help.

We have been hearing of parishioners who are helping each other, making phone calls, being present while staying home, being safe, and just living the best way they can. In these times, that is what it means to live out your faith.

The South Portland Food Cupboard is still open and accepting our 40 Cans for Lent. Unfortunately, our churches are no longer able to receive food donations. PLEASE BRING FOOD TO 130 Thadeus Street, South Portland, between 7:30AM and 11:30AM, Monday through Friday. As you can imagine during these times of layoffs and uncertainty, they still need our help!

Thank you to the amazing Holy Cross School faculty and staff for their efforts at providing a top-notch Catholic education. Visit the school website for information about the postponement of the school auction, enrolling new students for the 2020-2021 school year and other school related information. Go to [www.Holycrossmaine.org](http://www.Holycrossmaine.org)

On Sunday, March 22, Fr. Innocent announced to the cluster of his reassignment. His letter has been posted on our website [www.cluster22.org](http://www.cluster22.org) Originally, he had planned to move on April 15<sup>th</sup>. This has been postponed at least until May 1<sup>st</sup> or when the borders are open. We will keep you posted as we learn more information.

In order to unite us with our Catholic brothers and sisters around the world, we will continue to pray every night at 7:00PM the Prayer by Pope Francis to the Blessed Mother for Protection against Covid-19. You can find this on our website or in previous emails.

Be safe and know you are in our prayers. Please pray for us as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul F. Stefanko". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Msgr. Paul F. Stefanko