

## **DAY 15**

As I sit to write this it is Day 15 that we have not celebrated Mass publicly. It seems so much longer. As you know, we are open for private prayer. Check the website for current hours (by the time you read this they may have changed). We are doing everything to make sure that you are safe when you visit.

I am grateful to the staff who are weathering these difficulties. Business continues to operate; bills still need to be paid. Denver faithfully opens and closes the church each day and makes sure it is clean and safe. Our parish outreach continues to function. Clients are served by appointment and all precautions are taken to ensure their safety. Religious Ed has the unique challenge of trying to plan with no idea whether the timelines for these plans will be changed. We can be sure they will. But still we go on.

Each Saturday evening and Sunday morning we have a handful of volunteers that are here while the church is open to ensure the safety of everyone. During these times I am amazed at how often people come to the church to make a visit and bring with them a bag or bags of food for the poor. How pleased God must be as you continue to think of others.

Each weekend there is a basket into which visitors are dropping their envelopes. Thank you for your continued financial sacrifice for our parish. We are so grateful to all who have subscribed to online giving and to those who have mailed in their weekly envelopes. We realize that this situation has placed an emotional and financial burden on many of you. Please know that I remember you in my daily Mass intentions.

This situation has also put a strain on our parish's budget and has the potential to impact our mission. If you are able, I ask that you please consider signing up for online giving or mailing in your weekly envelopes. A new "Text to Give" option has also been developed, enabling you to make a weekly donation to your parish on your smart phone. To access information regarding this innovative form of giving as well as our online giving program, please go to our parish website or call us, we will gladly walk you through the process.

Please join me in praying for our first responders, our doctors and nurses, and all those in our Catholic ministries who are helping on the front lines. I pray for you all constantly that we may be able to return to the rightful worship of God in the Sacraments. Thank you and may God bless you and your families.

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

Mass is still being offered everyday - just not publicly. There are many daily and weekend Mass intentions open and available for you to have offered for your loved ones. Email or call the parish. Your message will be returned and we will arrange for your intentions to be offered.

May the blessing of Almighty God + descend upon you and remain with you forever.

## **PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK**

As we know, we will not be celebrating Palm Sunday or the Holy Week liturgies together this year. While we are all in pain that our Holy Week 2020 needs to be a virtual one, we do have a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Barres, *The Great Week: A Pilgrimage with the Lord in Holy Week* which can help strengthen, lift and inspire our virtual Holy Week celebrations.

This Pastoral Letter is a user-friendly, easily understandable synthesis of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum, its liturgical theology, spirituality and history, designed to show the relationship between the Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week and Catholic Evangelization. The Pastoral Letter is available on our diocesan website DRVC.org and in the March 2020 *Long Island Catholic* magazine that many of you received at home. I encourage everyone to participate in all the Holy Week liturgies virtually through the Catholic Faith Network (see: [catholicfaithnetwork.org](http://catholicfaithnetwork.org) for details).

## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Taken from *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary* by Saint Alphonsus Liguori. Published by Tan Books.

## **PRAYER TO END THE PANDEMIC**

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

May God bless you,  
Father Sikorski