

Sunday April 5th, 2020

Greetings in the name of the Lord:

This is certainly going to be the most unusual Holy Week any of us have ever experienced in our lifetimes. It is hard to image a priest celebrating Mass without the people. It is hard for people to imagine being in their homes while the Holy Week Liturgies are celebrated behind the locked doors of our churches. We all understand that this is necessary to protect the common good of the health and wellbeing of us and all people in general. This not only affects us here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, but also the entire Universal Church throughout the world.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments of the Vatican has issued directives for how the Holy Week Liturgies are to be celebrated. Here is a link to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati which summarizes the directives for worship. <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Palm-Sunday-and-the-Paschal-Triduum.pdf>

On Palm Sunday we will not bless and distribute palm as we are accustomed to.

The Liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil have also experienced significant simplification.

We are going to be altering the door locking schedule for Holy Week. The doors on Palm Sunday will unlock at 10:00 am. For Monday through Wednesday the doors will be unlocked from 9:30 am to 8:00 pm. On Holy Thursday the doors will be unlocked from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. On Good Friday the doors will be unlocked from 6:30 am to 1:00 pm. The doors will again unlock from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

On Holy Saturday the doors will be unlocked from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm

When the time that doors are locked occurs all people will have to exit the church per the directives of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This is when obedience is hard, but it is a virtue that is for our good. In time we will bear much fruit from these short-term sacrifices.

On Easter Sunday the doors will be unlocked from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

I have given instructions that the church will be decorated for the Easter Season. This way we are giving glory to God and it does give us hope and joy in the midst of suffering and sacrifice.

As we know with this Covid 19 pandemic all things are subject to change. Check our webpage and facebook page for the latest updates.

Let us keep each other in prayer as we unite ourselves to the sufferings of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ:

Fr. Haft