



St. Matthew

Catholic Church & School

April 2, 2020

My dear parishioners,

We are now entering the 4th week where we must celebrate and pray as separated brothers and sisters in Christ. Your continuing prayers sustain me as I work with staff to keep our parish ready for when we can all return to celebrate our Mass together once more. With Holy Week starting on Palm Sunday, I am so sad we cannot share this time in person.

So many people are stepping forward to help with our parish needs. For example, St. Vincent de Paul is receiving more requests than ever for food, rent, and utility assistance. The last two can be handled by phone, but the need to deliver food is impacted by the fact that many St. Vincent de Paul volunteers are in at least one of the vulnerable categories. The Lisieux House women have stepped forward to offer to help with the deliveries. Your financial support of St. Vincent de Paul is helping them purchase the necessities we aren't receiving since the office has been closed these last few weeks. A few hearty volunteers are still dropping groceries off at the parish office, and I bring them inside until we St. Vincent de Paul volunteers can pick them up.

Parishioners are calling homebound folks to offer prayer and words of encouragement. When a homebound parishioner says they would like prayer, I receive their name and pray for them during my twice daily prayer time in the church.

St. Matthew table has been serving meals to the homeless on Sundays, and sent me this report:

"Thank you team for extending the loving hand of Jesus to our neighbors! We were blessed with good weather and good company and good food! I thought you would enjoy seeing a snapshot from the evening. We served around 40 guests. The evening was amazingly calm as guests were spaced out from about 5:10 to 5:50. We had just the right amount of food!!! Thanks to everyone for participating with food, prayers, and the hands and feet of Jesus!"

We will be using Facebook Live for our Holy Week and Triduum Liturgies as noted in the schedule below. We have worked with some parishioners who are more versed in how to improve the sound quality, and hopefully everyone will be able to clearly hear the Mass. So that you may enter more fully into some of the traditions that we cannot celebrate together, we have attached a Holy Week at Home prayer resource from Liturgical Press.

- **Palm Sunday** **April 5th** **10am**
 - For this Mass, I will bless palms which we will keep in our Community Center Refrigerator until it is safe to distribute them to you.
- **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper** **April 9th** **7pm**
- **Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)** **April 10th** **3pm.**
- **The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night** **April 11th** **8:30pm**
- **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord** **April 12th** **10am**

May you all stay safe and find hope in the Resurrection of our Lord! You will continue to be in my prayers, and I ask you to keep me and our staff in your prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Khanh D. Nguyen
Pastor