

Good evening all and welcome to our second pastors update during this time of being apart...and to our first live call in time on this beautiful Friday evening. We want to inform you of what's in the works and to share with you what's going on in the parish in your absence.

So what's in the work?

We were informed by our Diocese on Wednesday that we will not be publically gathering for Holy Week Liturgies or for Easter Sunday, (including Easter Week and the feast of the Divine Mercy). In fact, we don't know, as of yet, when we will gather again. Therefore, we are working toward live streaming our masses on Sunday until further notice. We will also record the mass for those who need to pray with us at a time more convenient to them. The livestreamed Mass will allow us to be more interactive--with a virtual offering of peace and even an offertory. See it on our parish website.

The diocese has also informed us that the Chrism mass -in which the sacred oils are blessed and priests renew their priestly promises - will be postponed until July 11, 2020 - the actual 200th anniversary day of the Diocese of Richmond. Ordinations to the Diaconate and to the Priesthood (scheduled for end of May and June respectively) have been moved to a day not yet determined. Nobody knows how long the current restrictions will last.

What is going on in our parish:

Confessions are still being offered in the Sullivan Parlor, our temporary confessional. It allows the penitent the choice of kneeler behind the priest or a chair in front of the priest with more than the mandatory 6 ft. between us. This week we will have wipes available for the penitent to wipe down the place they choose as well as the knob to the door itself. Look at it as your additional penance.

While we're talking confessions, **your priests encourage you to avail yourselves of the Sacrament as soon as possible instead of waiting till the very end of Lent.** We will not be able to accommodate the usual longer lines on Good Friday as in the past because of the restrictions as to numbers of people allowed in a space. Come next week please. And please self- monitor the number waiting inside.

The small Groups are receiving questions for their reflection. Our Hispanic Members gather via technology several times a week for prayer and connection. Our Youth Ministers are "meeting" with the parish youth. Other staff members are keeping up with our candidates for the sacraments and our parent of children in Religious formation. The parish office is opened for business from 8:30- 4:30 M-F.

Thank you to those who have been tuning into our daily masses. We plan to continue them in the way we've celebrating them. Beginning tomorrow, and there are no glitches, daily mass will be live streamed at 9 am. A recording will be available after that.

A small group of our regular office volunteers have called all households who didn't have emails on files – their efforts have garnered almost 175 new recipients for our weekly blasts and updates. We also now know of those whom we need to connect with by phone. A huge thanks for those volunteers.

The Williamsburg house of Mercy is doing their good work in new and creative ways. I spent a couple of hours there on Wednesday and was amazed by their organization and the scope of their good work. Local business are generously supplying food and goods like fresh vegetables and eggs by the hundredfold. It's true: We are in this together.

All this week, the Commonwealth and Diocese have conducted updates and webinars as to services and resources that are available to the parish and to our people. If you have a spiritual or material need please call.

For those who don't have computer or tablets, or iphones, a phone line has been set up to receive their prayer intentions or register their need with the parish (229-3631 ext 2304). If you know of someone who doesn't have web access please let them know of this service.

This is all for today. And now, good souls, your priest are available for questions or concerns. We're anxious to hear your voices.