

Holy Week



My Friends: I know it is difficult during this uncertain time to concentrate on many things as we listen attentively to the news about the coronavirus-Covid-19. We are called to be safe and to keep people safe at this time, which means we cannot attend Church to pray. We can pray in our homes however, and I share with you the following notes for **Holy Week** to assist you in your prayer. Bishop Fred Colli

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper: April 9, 2020;

This mass commemorates the first Mass celebrated by Jesus and his disciples and the beginning of the priesthood. Even though you cannot participate in person at this Mass due to the virus, we ask that you please remember the priests of our diocese in your prayers, and the bishop, asking God to give them grace to strengthen their vocation to the priesthood and to be good and compassionate ministers to their people. Please remember your parish priest in a special way in your prayer. **(The Gospel for this Mass is: John 13: 1-15.)**

Good Friday - Passion of the Lord: April 10, 2020

Normally we gather in our churches to hear the Passion of Jesus and to reverence the Cross. Since we cannot do so due to the pandemic, we ask you to read the passion text at home **(Gospel of John: 18:1 - 19:42)** from your bible. You can also pray the **Stations of the Cross** with your family, or alone. Many versions are available on the internet.

Easter Sunday: April 12, 2020

It is almost unbelievable that we are unable to attend Easter Mass this year with our families in our parish churches. Due to the virus and gathering restrictions, we know that our first priority is to keep people safe. Please see if you can watch an **Easter Mass** on TV or on the Internet. There are many Masses **(Gospel: John 20: 1-18)** on YouTube channels. Unite yourself in prayer as best you can at this time and make a **Spiritual Communion** during the Mass. The following prayer will assist you in doing so.

“My, Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.”