

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2020

TO CELEBRATE PALM SUNDAY, HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, AND EASTER VIGIL WITH FATHER MIKE, CLICK ON THIS LINK:

youtube.com/channel/UCRogmn_HRMsPzAq4XSysm3w

		†	MASS INTENTIONS	†
Sat.	4/4	4:00 PM	Alex, Ann, and Thomas Zmiejko by John and Cheryl Zmiejko	
Sun.	4/5	11:00 AM	Leonard Solarek by His Wife Carol and Daughter Bernadette	
Mon.	4/6	7:00 PM	Joseph Cukauskas, Sr. by His Wife Helen	
Tue.	4/7	7:00 AM	Pauline Rish by Ann Marie and Dave Padora	
Wed	4/8	7:00 AM	William Wilkinson by Matthew Viechec	
Thur.	4/8	7:00 AM	Holy Thursday	
Fri.	4/10	1:00 PM	Good Friday	
Sat.	4/11	8:00 PM	Easter Vigil Andrew Blasko, Jr. by Family	



Sunday \$1,192.00; Dues \$593.00; Care and Education of Priests \$5.00; Catholic Relief \$66.00; Easter Flowers \$35.00; Easter \$82.00; Good Friday \$10.00; Holy Thursday \$10.00; Holy Land \$5.00

CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are in Memory of Andrew, Raymond, and Joseph Ambrose by Maureen



SANCTUARY CANDLE is burning this week in Memory of Mike Bobby by His Wife and Children.

MEMORIAL DONATION of \$100.00 was made in Memory of Leona and Jimmy DeiTos by Stephen and Catherine Lutz; \$50.00 was made in Memory of Angeline Marsicano by Denise and Dorothy Rimshaw and \$50.00 in her memory by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Romanelli and Family

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT EASTER BOOKLETS: Every Easter we pass out a devotional book with our bulletins. Because there will be no public Easter services, we have arranged for the books to be in digital form on the parish website www.ourladyfreeland.org. Simply go to the **Events** tab and click on the **Rejoice and Be Glad** and the entire book is at your fingertips. There is also a Spanish version right below it.



EMAIL ADDRESSES: If you would like to receive email updates on church-related matters, please email the parish office at secretary@ourladyfreeland.org and we will add you to our list.



This weekend the Church celebrates Palm Sunday. On the surface it looks like a grand celebration, and in some respects it is. Folks were overjoyed at the presence of a man who many believed might be the Messiah. Below the surface (and we know the story) things would change dramatically. From a triumphant entry into Jerusalem to tragic death on a Cross, it was a story with varied levels.

The world we live in today is much the same. Who would have guessed 3 short weeks we would be where we are today: a world full of turmoil? A tiny virus has brought the world to a standstill. And the worst part, we do not know where and when this will end.

As we enter Holy Week, I urge you to HAVE FAITH. Our Church leaders wisely tell us we cannot enter our church buildings for fear of spreading the virus. But we don't need a church building to be a church. We are told to stand 6 feet apart; we don't need to stand side-by-side to worship God. We are told to practice social isolation. Jesus is with us every moment whether by ourselves or in a large group.

As a fellow Catholic, I encourage you this HOLY WEEK to be Church, to embrace your Faith and to stand proudly alone in front of God. I know this will be a HOLY WEEK we never forget. Make it one you will remember for the right reasons.



A VIEW FROM THE PEW, ANXIOUS?

The last few days I could not help reflecting on how people in days gone by must have felt when things weren't going well and their world was turned upside down... Past world wars, the depression & past pandemics. Today, we get a sense of the uneasiness the people who lived through such events must have felt. Unfortunately, pandemics close off the one thing that brought us together during trying times - church & the mass. Now we all get to experience what it is like to be a shut-in. Even though we lost our access to attend church we still can pray as a parish. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

We are still collecting the Forget-Me-Not bags for our elderly and shut-in parishioners. We know it is hard to get out to fill the bags. We are looking to distribute them between Mother's Day and Father's Day at the earliest. If you have your bag ready, the church is open **EVERYDAY from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** for private prayer and visitation. You can leave it on the altar steps then.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS - We have a new page on Facebook. It is Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish Faith Formation. We invite all of you to join and be kept up-to-date on what is new with your children's Faith Formation classes. For those parents who did not pick up the Faith Formation packets, your children's packets will be mailed to you this week. Also, on the parish website www.ourladyfreeland.org, under the CCD tab there are printable games, puzzles, and coloring pages for your children.

NEWS

From Our Church

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION - One of the hardest parts of social distancing is not being able to receive the Holy Eucharist during Mass. For those of you who are participating in the mass on television or with Father Mike on YouTube, the following is the Prayer for Spiritual Communion. It can be said when you would normally receive the Host. We hope this gives you some small comfort until we can be together at Mass again.



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.

Prayer of Pope Francis

Pope Francis recited this prayer during a special mass on March 11th, asking Mary to protect Italy and the world during the Coronavirus pandemic.

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.



Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.



As Holy Week draws near, the bishop has recorded a new message for the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton that he wishes to share with you, inviting all of us to join together in prayer. The video message link is: <https://youtu.be/IBdJtcxeyI>

At this time, the decision to maintain access to a parish Church remains a decision of the Pastor or the Parish Life Coordinator. Father Mike has determined that Immaculate Conception Church will be open every day from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM for private prayers and devotion.

NO FUNERAL MASSES OR SERVICES, including those at funeral homes, are to be conducted. Priests, Deacons and Parish Life Coordinators may conduct grave-side burial services when appropriate for immediate family members only, mindful of the CDC guidelines for public gatherings. Provisions are to be made for the celebration of Memorial Masses after the current healthcare crisis subsides.

1. SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

- All public gatherings for the celebration of Confessions or the Anointing of the Sick, indoors or outdoors, are suspended.
- In the gravest circumstances, priests may make themselves available for these sacraments, taking care to follow CDC guidelines for personal protection.
- The faithful are encouraged to follow the directives of the Holy See regarding perfect contrition that have been communicated to you in our regular updates.
 - **PERFECT CONTRITION REMINDER:** As indicated in last week's bulletin, Perfect Contrition has 3 conditions. They are as follows:
 - A love of God above all else
 - A sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin
 - The resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides

2. SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The celebration of Baptism is suspended for the health and safety of all. In case of emergency (danger of death), the sacrament may be administered.

3. SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: All weddings scheduled in the Diocese of Scranton are postponed until further notice. While churches may "hold open" the date of a scheduled wedding, whether the sacrament can be celebrated on that date will depend entirely on whether the restrictions have been lifted.

HOLY WEEK: All directives regarding the celebration of Holy Week liturgies released on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 remain in place, with the following exception. **THE DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS ON PALM SUNDAY IS PROHIBITED.** While time honored and appreciated by many members of the faithful, the distribution of palms in any way risks the unnecessary spread of the Coronavirus.