

April 4, 2020  
The Vigil of Palm Sunday



Dear Parishioners and School Families,

As we begin Holy Week, I pray that this will be a time for you and your family to contemplate deeply the mystery of the Passion of Our Lord and the true love that he has for each of us. We are living in difficult times. My thoughts and prayers go out to the many people throughout our nation and the world who have been affected in a variety of ways as the result of this pandemic: those who have died or have lost a loved one; all of those who are in the medical field, caregivers, first responders and law enforcement and military service who literally put their lives on the line every day to help care for us; for our government and religious leaders who have had to make tough decisions for the good of all, often times in the face of great criticism; for those who work in the food service and transportation industry who keep the supply chains running across the globe; for utility workers who keep our power, water and communications going; our teachers and staff, and for all of you who have had to make sacrifices on your own, especially as you have been unable to receive the sacraments as you would like.

As you all know by now, the Bishops of Ohio have extended the dispensation of the Catholic Faithful in Ohio from their Sunday Obligation, and all public celebrations of Masses/Liturgies remain suspended until May 3, 2020. My heart aches for you and for your loved ones who have repeatedly expressed the desire for the sacraments, especially the Most Holy Eucharist. We ask the Lord God to give us perseverance in our lives knowing that this too will pass, so that we can once again gather together as His people to celebrate as a community the Love of the Risen Lord!

All on site parish and school activities will remain cancelled and parish buildings will not be accessible, except as required by staff, until further notice. The priests will still be offering the Holy Mass in private and will do our best to honor the intentions already scheduled. While we do not have online streaming of the Holy Mass, we have placed resources on our parish website to assist you in finding various ways of watching/listening to the Holy Mass each day.

During this Holy Week, Bishop Brennan has had his team put together some opportunities for the faithful of the Diocese to participate in various events that can be accessed through Radio/TV Broadcast, as well as online social media formats, including an online retreat given by Fr. Michael Kelly on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening. A complete listing of these can be found on our parish website, or by visiting the website of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus [www.columbuscatholic.org/holy-week](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/holy-week). I would like to encourage all of you, in the spirit of unity, to especially join Bishop Brennan for the Holy Masses and Liturgies that he will be celebrating as made available through these technological means. You may also want to join our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he celebrates his Holy Masses and Liturgies on various websites ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)) and social media platforms.

I would like to thank those of the parish who continue to make their regular financial contributions. As many of you know, just because the buildings are closed, we still have parish and school payroll, utility, insurance, maintenance, and many other expenses to keep up with. I know in these trying times it is difficult for some of you to offer your regular support and please know that you remain in our prayers as you make sacrifices for your family.

We have received questions from parishioners as to how they may continue with contributing to the operational needs of the parish. For those who use envelopes, the best way is to mail your contribution to us (please do not send cash through the mail and stay at home as necessary). Our office staff is present during limited times Monday through Friday, so you may call ahead before dropping off contributions. The other, and perhaps best alternative, is to sign-up for our Online Giving Program which may be done through our parish website. In doing so, please be sure to set up a contribution schedule for your donation. If you need assistance, please call the parish office and ask for Becky.

I ask that all parishioners please consider the following ways of staying connected to the parish. Be sure to check our parish website ([www.saintmichael-cd.org](http://www.saintmichael-cd.org)) regularly for updates. You may also join our parish Facebook page by clicking on the **f** icon on the parish website. Additionally, we utilize the Flocknote platform for communication. Simply click on the word “Flocknote” to the right of parish logo on our home page, and you will be directed automatically to our parish Flocknote page where you can register. Once you have signed-up, be sure to request to join the group “From the Pastor” so that you may receive updates from me as I send them out. These communications may be sent to you either through your email or through text messaging.

Flocknote also gives you free access to all digital content from Bishop Robert Barron’s *Word on Fire Catholic Ministries*. These audio and video presentations can be very helpful in contemplating the truth, the goodness and the beauty of the Catholic Faith. Furthermore, if you join the group “Word on Fire-Engage,” you will receive periodic messages from Bishop Barron automatically as they are scheduled.

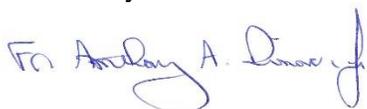
Another resource for your benefit is the FORMED platform. This will provide a variety of free content for you to grow in your knowledge of and love for the Catholic Faith. The best way to sign up is to start on our parish website home page and click on the word “FORMED” to the right of the parish logo. This will take you directly to the parish FORMED page account and you won’t have to search for it. Create your account by following the prompts, and then you are in. It’s that simple. Many parishioners and school families have already joined this and have found it beneficial in many ways for them and for their family’s growth in the faith. And it is at no cost to you! (In other words, it’s FREE)!

We have been asked if there is anything that people can do to help those in need. The Parish Pastoral Council, the Knights of Columbus, the Men and Women’s Faith and Fellowship groups, the Respect Life Group and many more, including individual parishioners, have offered their assistance in a variety of ways and I thank you. I have posted on our Parish Website, the parish Facebook page, and through Flocknote, references to ways in which people can help. For instance:

- *The Catholic Foundation* has set up a “Catholic Community Response Fund.” This is an emergency fund to raise needed money for families and individuals in our parishes and food for our food pantries. To donate, go to <https://catholic-foundation.org/>.
- *The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus* has shared information regarding locations throughout Franklin County which are operating Drive-Thru donation service so that people may drop off food and other needed items. Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SSVDPColumbus/>.
- Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference has offered this message:  
“The St Vincent de Paul Society will be continuing to minister to the neediest in our community during this time. We are currently working to coordinate food deliveries from our pantry to the homes of those who request assistance. We are not accepting food donations at this time, but we will accept cash donations to help us purchase food through Mid-Ohio Food Bank or local grocery stores to restock our shelves. You can make a check out to St Michael’s St. Vincent de Paul and mail it to the church. The St. Michael family has always been generous when the need arises. We thank you for your inquiries and your desire to help. If you know of someone within our parish boundaries who needs assistance, please refer them to our hot line at 614-885-7814 Option 7.”
- Other resources will be communicated as they become available.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, our Blessed Mother, Mary, St. Joseph, and our patron, St. Michael the Archangel, intercede for us and keep us safe!

God bless you all!



Fr. Anthony A. Dinovo, Jr.  
Pastor