

MARCH 31, 2020

TUESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

A MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTHONY CARBONE, PASTOR

**WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST, AND WE PRAISE THEE,
BECAUSE BY THY HOLY CROSS THOU HAST REDEEMED
THE WORLD!**

As you are aware, we continue to function under the restrictions that have been imposed upon us due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, presently, our parish office is operating with regular hours; Addy is here to assist you. Carol Serafin, our pastoral associate for catechesis, also continues to be in her office Monday through Thursday. Please continue to contact Carol, Addy, and me by telephone (724-238-6434) and/or by email: cserafin@dioceseofgreensburg.org; aevangeliste@dioceseofgreensburg.org; and acarbone@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

I continue to offer Mass daily, praying for the intention that is listed in the bulletin and for the needs of all of our parishioners. Our parish church continues to be open from about 9:00AM until 4:00PM daily. However, those times may vary due to changing circumstances. Please know that I am available for the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) at the scheduled time of 4:00PM on Saturday. If this time is not convenient for you or you are unable to celebrate the Sacrament at that time, please call the parish office in order to make an appointment. Also, in case of emergency, if someone is dying or close to death, please call the parish office to request that a priest visit the person and prayers to be offered. I will be happy to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with those who are in need of this Sacrament. We continue to have the holy Hour on Tuesday from 3:00PM until 4:00PM. Also, please feel free, especially on Fridays, to come to our church in order to pray the Stations of the Cross.

During this time when you are not able to receive the Lord in the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist, consider making a spiritual communion, asking Jesus to come into your heart and soul. *“Come to me Jesus, my Lord, my Master. Come and refresh my soul. Strengthen me, that in union with Thee, I may do perfectly the Heavenly Father’s will. Let me never be separated from Thee by sin.”*

I also want to remind you about our parish’s participation in FORMED, an online platform providing access to Catholic programs, books, literature, talks, audio dramas, movies, and ebooks for children, teens, and adults! All of our parishioners have free access to this program by registering at www.htligonier.formed.org. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Bishop Malesic asks you to keep those who are suffering in the current outbreak of sickness and all those who are ill in your prayers. To stay continuously updated with communications,

recommendations, and actions taken by the Diocese of Greensburg to combat the spread of the coronavirus, text “Faith” to the number 724-305-3057 to sign up for important text message alerts. Up to the minute communication is available on all diocesan social media outlets – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram – and at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/healthalerts.

The parish needs your continued financial and material support at this time. If you are able, please send through the mail or drop off your envelopes at the parish office. Soon we will have electronic giving in place – please take a look on our webpage for the link. Thank you for your generosity to the parish and to the Diocese of Greensburg. We have gone over our goal of \$48,304 for the Diocesan Lenten Appeal. Now, all contributions to the Appeal will be returned in full to the parish. Please, if you are able to support the parish in this way, I ask you to make a contribution. Any amount will be significant. I appreciate your sacrifices.

The weekly bulletin continues to be available in church, but please remember that you can access the bulletin on our parish webpage. Also on the webpage, we have made available various resources for prayer that you and your family can use during Holy Week. I hope that you will take a look at these.

As you know, this Sunday – April 5 – is Palm Sunday. Palms will be available for distribution, but not on Palm Sunday. We will announce when the palms will be available. You have probably heard that there will be no public celebrations of the Easter Triduum this year. I cannot tell you how this saddens me and how troubled I am by this fact. However, please be assured that I will celebrate the liturgies and I will remember you in my prayers and intentions. I am offering the Mass “For the Parishioners” every Sunday and will offer it on Holy Saturday night at the Easter Vigil. Also, Bishop Malesic will be celebrating the liturgies and you will be able to watch them online at the diocesan webpage. In addition to this, several parishes in the Diocese are livestreaming the celebration of Mass. I am sure you are aware of other outlets where you can participate in Mass, especially on television.

I ask that you continue to reach out to parishioners and others who might need some assistance at this time. I am sure that the isolation that many are enduring is a burden and cross. Your phone calls, notes, emails, and social media messages will be deeply appreciated! Please pray for me, also.