

APRIL 6, 2020

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

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.

Our Bishop, Bishop Edward C. Malesic, has put in place several directives and mandates, effective last Saturday, April 4, 2020.

All of our church buildings are now closed until further notice. I regret that you are not able to make a visit at this time. However, the Church teaches that it is possible to make a spiritual communion with Our Eucharistic Lord. St. Alphonsus Ligouri composed the following prayer, which you may pray during this time: *My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

If you desire to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance/confession, please contact me. We will not have regularly scheduled times to celebrate the Sacrament until further notice. Bishop Malesic instructs us, "Remember that in these peculiar times, theologians and pastors, including our Holy Father Pope Francis, have stressed that the faithful, including those in mortal sin, can receive our Lord's forgiveness by making a perfect act of contrition with the intention of seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as it is widely made available again." The Bishop recommends this Act of Contrition: *O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.*

Bishop Malesic has also reminded us that “In danger of death, baptisms are to be performed immediately, understanding that any person can baptize by pouring water [3 times] on the head of the person to be baptized, using these words, ‘I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’”

Bishop Malesic has given us guidance for the celebration of funerals at this time. “Upon the death of a member of the faithful, it is encouraged that burial at the cemetery take place without a prior funeral Mass and that a memorial Mass be scheduled ... at a later date and after this danger has passed. Should, however, a funeral Mass or liturgy occur within the church building, and until further notice, no more than 10 persons, including clergy, pall bearers, and the staff of the funeral home may be present, taking into account all normal precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The Church also desires to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with those who need this Sacrament. Bishop Malesic wrote, “To reiterate a previous directive, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick must be given to those who are gravely ill or in the active process of dying, following CDC guidelines for safety.” PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE PARISH IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN NEED OF THIS SACRAMENT. I WILL VISIT THE PERSON AT HOME OR IN THE INSTITUTION WHERE THE PERSON IS, IF I AM PERMITTED.

Please check out the resources that we have provided on this webpage. There are many good prayer aids that will help you during this Holiest of all weeks.

Please consider joining Archbishop Jose Gomez, president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and Archbishop of Los Angeles, in a national moment of prayer in the time of coronavirus. Together as a nation, we will pray the Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and seek our Savior’s healing and protection. This communal prayer will occur on Good Friday, April 10, at 12 Noon. Visit facebook.com/usccb or lacatholics.org/sacred-heart to join the live-stream and pray as one nation.

Just a reminder that I blessed palms on Palm Sunday – the palms will be available as soon as we are allowed to distribute them. Please watch the Basket Blessing this Saturday, April 11, at 12 noon on the diocesan webpage – www.dioceseofgreensburg.org, if you are observing the custom of having your Easter Basket blessed. Easter water will soon be available, also.

I will be celebrating the liturgies of the Easter Triduum and I will also be remembering your intentions. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to participate in the Easter Triduum liturgies that are available on the internet and television.

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.

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.