

April 9, 2020

Dear Saint Augustine of Canterbury Parishioners,

I hope all of you continue to do well in this time of staying at home and social distancing.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to gather in church for the great celebrations of the Triduum (Three Days): The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, the memorial of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and the Easter celebrations of the Resurrection at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday Night and the Mass on Easter Sunday morning.

Many parishes and other sources will be livestreaming or broadcasting these services. Please check the websites of our neighboring parishes as well as those of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Belleville and the Cathedral of Saint Louis in Saint Louis. EWTN is also a good source on cable and satellite television. Here at Saint Augustine, I plan to livestream, on our parish Facebook page, per this schedule:

Holy Thursday, 9 April: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 PM,  
Good Friday, 10 April: Service, including the Passion and the Veneration of the  
Cross, at 7 PM,  
Holy Saturday, 11 April: Easter Vigil Mass, at 8 PM, and  
Easter Sunday, 12 April: Easter Mass at 8:30 AM.

This Holy Week and Easter, in a way, we have been made more aware of the great gift of eternal life that Jesus offers to us. With the virus pandemic, we realize what a great gift of life we have from God in this world. When we think of this, we realize that we have received an even greater gift: eternal life, won for us by Jesus Christ by his death and resurrection, which we remember this Holy Week and Easter. Jesus died on the cross as a suffering servant, offering his life for us and the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus rose from the dead, showing us how we, one day, will be raised, to be with him forever. Jesus has given this gift of new life, beginning in Baptism. Although, this year, we will not have the blessing of Holy Water at the Easter Vigil Mass or the sprinkling of the congregation at the Masses, we will have the opportunity to renew our baptismal promises. We made these, or they were made for us by our parents and godparents, at our Baptism. This is an opportunity for us to rededicate ourselves to believing in Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. We also are called to entrust ourselves to Jesus, to let him lead us, by following his commands and example, as well as the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to eternal life with him.

On Holy Thursday, we remember the giving of Jesus himself to us in Holy Communion, beginning at the Last Supper. We pray that we may all soon be able to receive our Lord in Communion again, that we might be assured of his presence with us. In the meantime, we pray often that Jesus may come to us spiritually, in a Spiritual Communion, inviting him into our hearts and souls as our Savior and Lord.

Let us pray for each other in this holy time. Let us pray for all those who have suffered and died because of the corona virus. Let us pray for a quick end to this pandemic.

Please let me know if I can help you in any way at this time and in the days ahead.

May you have a Blessed Easter!

Sincerely,

Fr. Von Deeke