



April 3, 2020

My Dear People of St. Ann Parish,

I pray that all of you are well. Fr. Greg, Seminarian Kevin and I are all well and are continuing our prayers for you each day. Thanks be to God we have not killed each other with our cooking, yet anyway.

Here we are ready to enter into Holy Week, the most wonderful and grace-filled week of the year and yes this remains true for this year just like every other year. This year, Holy Week will be very different, but no less grace-filled and profoundly meaningful if we take the time and effort to enter into these days of the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Usually, our Holy Week is filled with shopping for amazing Easter food and chocolate bunnies and attending all the profound liturgies that the Church offers during this week. Sadly, none of this will be our Holy Week this year. So how will we keep Holy Week holy?

Here are a few ideas. 1) Included in this EFWF, you will find a link to help you and your families make the most of the Holy Week Liturgies. Take time as a family to come together to pray and talk about these amazing days and all that Jesus did to save us. 2) Follow the Liturgies from St. Ann Parish live-streamed on our YouTube Channel or Facebook page. Participate fully in the Liturgies, just as if you were at Church: sit, stand and kneel at the appropriate times. Listen to the readings and observe the moments of silence. With your big screen TV's, it may actually feel like we are present with you. 3) Be very careful not to just say, "Easter is cancelled" so I'll do something else". Easter is not cancelled. Jesus Died and Rose again to life to save us. Don't forget and don't pass it off as if it is just one more "thing" in your life. This is the one and most important "thing" this week. Don't let anything get in your way. This year, more than ever, we need to know, experience and believe that Jesus is alive, He loves us, and He has given His Life to save us. Spend time thinking, talking and praying about this with your family this week.

This Easter will be like no other due to the struggles caused by the COVID 19 virus and like no other due to the blessings available because of the COVID 19 virus. It's up to us to open our hearts to the Lord and all His blessings or to close our hearts and pout about what I cannot do this Easter. Which will it be? The Stations of the Cross we will pray together on Good Friday ask us to choose for or against Jesus. Let us choose *for* the Lord, who willingly gave His life for us. Let us choose *for* the Lord by making abundant time for Him this week. Let us choose *for* the Lord by not allowing the world's pandemic to stop us from rejoicing in the fact that He is Risen, He is Risen indeed.

Fr. Greg, Seminarian Kevin and I are looking forward to bringing each of you to the Altar of the Lord this week during these Holy Days. May this week truly be Holy for all of us and for our world. May the Blessed Virgin Mary teach us to open our hearts to her Beloved Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who Died and Rose again for our salvation.

Stay safe and stay healthy. St. Ann, pray for us!

God bless,

Fr. Lobsinger, V.E., P.P.





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Monday, April 6

7:30a.m. † David Fabbri

Monday of Holy Week



Tuesday, April 7

7:30a.m. † Moe Kowal
† Norma Jean Strecker
† Adele LaPorta

Tuesday of Holy Week

† Charles Conway
† Jerry Mariani
Intentions of Joanna and Bill Lowther

*St. Ann,
Pray for them.*

Wednesday, April 8

7:30a.m. † Veronica and Thomas McGann

Wednesday of Holy Week

6:00 – 7:00p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction live-streamed

Thursday, April 9

Holy Thursday

7:00p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 10

Good Friday

3:00p.m. Vespers for Good Friday and Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 11

Holy Saturday

8:00p.m. Office of Readings for Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. Mass of Easter Sunday with the blessing of the Easter Candle and Easter Water

All Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.



**The Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please call the parish number if you require assistance.**

905-648-6874

St. Ann Parish YouTube Channel

St. Ann Parish has a YouTube Channel. Here you will find a video of the Daily (Monday – Friday) and Sunday Masses from St. Ann Church. You can also access the Mass from our Facebook page. Thanks to Fr. Greg for setting this up and to Kevin Dunn for recording the Daily Mass. **The Mass is now live-streamed, so you can watch as it is happening. Please see below for this week's schedule.** Donations to help cover the cost of this endeavor are greatly appreciated. Please call the Parish Office to enquire as to how to help. The link to watch the Mass is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiR7MKdwrp8gQcPm7EaCb0Q/featured>



St. Ann, pray for us



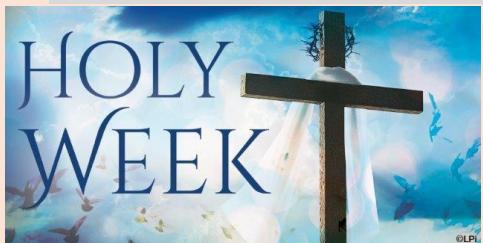
New Instructions Regarding the Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance

In a letter dated Friday, March 27, 2020, Bishop Crosby sent further instructions regarding the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance (Confession). In his letter he stated: *"Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the safety and health of the faithful in our Diocese, I ask that all Priests refrain from the celebration of individual confessions with absolution except in the case of danger of death."* Quoting a note dated March 20, 2020 from the Apostolic Penitentiary in Rome, Bishop Crosby reminds us, in such grave cases *"where the faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by a votum confessionis, that is, by a firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains the forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones."*

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

We invite you to join us for our Holy Week Liturgies which will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel and our Facebook page.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiR7MKdwrp8gQcPm7EaCb0Q/featured>



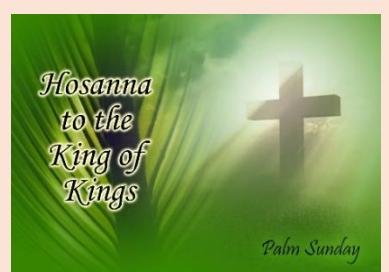
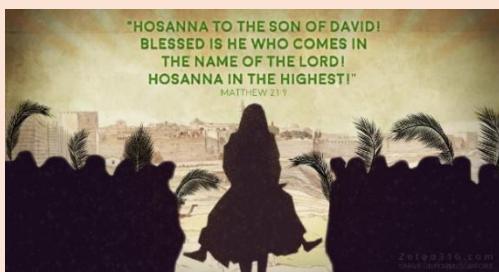
- Palm Sunday – Mass including Blessing of Palms – 8:00 a.m.
Mon. – Wed. – Mass - 7:30 a.m.
Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday – Vespers and Stations of the Cross – 3:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday – Office of Readings – 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – Mass of the Resurrection including the blessing of the Easter Candle and the new Easter Water – 8:00 a.m.

Please remember this year the normal Good Friday Liturgy and the Easter Vigil are not permitted to be celebrated. We will offer instead the Liturgy from the Divine Office. Please pray for the 19 people here at St. Ann and all those who were preparing to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Their reception of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation will take place at a later date not yet determined.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament via the Internet

Fr. Greg will offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour each Wednesday evening from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. live-streamed on our Facebook page. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with our Eucharistic Lord, to receive His blessings and to pray for healing for our world. Tune in for this wonderful hour of prayer.





Holy Week in Your Home

David Dayler found this great resource to help families celebrate the Holy Week Liturgies. The resource can be found at:

[https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/Holy Week at Home.pdf](https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/Holy%20Week%20at%20Home.pdf)

Be sure to check it out, it will truly help Holy Week come alive in your home.

Image of Jesus the Divine Physician

May Jesus, our Divine Physician, hold all of us tightly in His Loving Arms and bring healing and comfort to all peoples and lands. Amen.



Please remember to pray for all who are working with the sick, may our Blessed Lord and dear Lady keep them safe. *Our church bells ring each day at 9:00, Noon and 3:00 in honour of our Healthcare Workers and First Responders.*



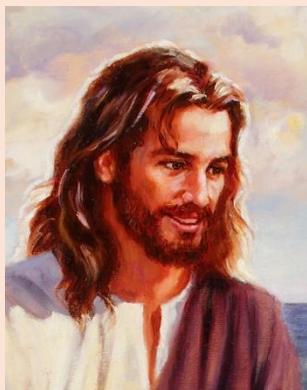
In the past you, our faithful and faith-filled parishioners, have been very generous to St. Ann Parish at Easter. This Easter is exceptionally unique, please God we will never experience another Easter like this one where we can only attend Easter Mass via the internet. As a sign of your belief in the Resurrection of Jesus and as a reflection of your support of St. Ann Parish, I ask you to continue your generosity by making your Easter offering to our Parish. Currently there are four methods to make your Easter donation to St. Ann Parish:

- ⊕ Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) is a great way to provide your Easter and regular offering to our Parish. To register for EFT, call the Parish Office and we will email you the necessary forms.
- ⊕ Drop off your Easter/weekly envelope by putting it through the mail slot in the Parish Office door.
- ⊕ Post-dated cheques. Instead of coming every week, put several post-dated cheques into the same envelope.
- ⊕ New option for online donation: hamiltondiocese.com/covid19parishfund/ works like “Canada Helps” but is through our Diocese and does not take a commission. You can make a one-time donation or schedule a regular donation.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of St. Ann Parish.

Without you we cannot be the amazing parish that we are.

I love my Beloved Jesus,
I love You more than
myself. I repent with my
whole heart of having
offended You.



Never permit me to separate myself from You again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what You will. Amen.





Blessed Palms

The Palms blessed at this weekend's Liturgy will be made available at a later date, yet to be determined.

Old Palms, that you already have in your home, may be burned or buried in your garden or you can bring them to the parish, *once we open again of course*, and we will burn them to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

PALM SUNDAY

Palms are blessed at the beginning of the Mass and often carried in procession to the Church where the Mass that opens Holy Week is celebrated. Palms are received and used on Palm Sunday as a prayerful reminder of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and His Death and Resurrection. After Palm Sunday, it has become tradition to display the palms by placing them with a crucifix or holy picture. On the following Ash Wednesday, they may be burned to create the ashes used to mark the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of their entering into the holy season of Lent.



Palm Sunday

Hosanna To The King of Kings

PLEASE NOTE

NOTICE

Electronic Fridays With Father (EFWF) will be sent out on Thursday next week. Please feel free to share any/all of EFWF with all who may be interested.

Pope Francis' Prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

*At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.*

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

*We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:*

*He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

*Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and
Blessed Virgin.*



One Heart, One Soul Campaign Projects at St. Ann Current and Future



Once again, I wish to thank all of you who have supported the One Heart, One Soul Campaign. Together we have pledged more than \$800,000.00 over three years to help St. Ann Parish in its mission to be the living presence of Jesus in our community of Ancaster. From the money raised so far, we have been able to:



- Make a sizable payment on our loan from the Bishop
- Restore the organ and music ministry to the loft
- Upgrade our church's sound system (started yesterday)
- Paint the church (scheduled to start on April 20, 2020)

The next big project is the replacing of the church flooring. If any of our parishioners have a contact with a carpet or tile company, or you own or work at a carpet or tile company, please send the contact information/quotes to stannancaster@hamiltondiocese.com or drop it through the mail slot in the office door. These will be reviewed by the Maintenance and Finance Committees for decisions. If we offer our skills and talents to the Lord, great things can happen. Please let us know about your "flooring skills."

Future plans are to use some of these funds to hire a Youth Minister to help connect our many youth and their families with our Faith and our Parish and to continue paying down our loan. Stay tuned for more details.

Daily Live-streamed Mass

Some have been inquiring about a suggested amount to offer to help with keeping the Daily and Sunday Mass available online. Although any amount is greatly accepted and appreciated, the approximate cost for each day is \$200.00. If you would like to help with these costs, please indicate on your offering that it is for the Daily Mass. With your help, we can continue to make Mass available online each day, live-streamed from our own St. Ann Church.



Fr. Greg is a bit of a Techno Genius

Fr. Greg has been making use of online technology to stay connected with the groups of our parish. Last Friday he met with approximately 25 young adults through a "Zoom" meeting. He is also continuing the R.C.I.A. program online so that all our candidates will be ready to be received into the Church as soon as possible and the youth group is planning an online gathering in the near future. We are blessed to have such a gifted and innovative Associate Pastor. Keep up the great work Father. Tomorrow, Saturday, April 4th is Father Greg's 11-month anniversary of Ordination.



Staying Connected by Phone

Since we are not able to connect physically at Mass, I have asked Seminarian Kevin, our Parish Advisory Committee and our Parish Finance Council to reach out to our Parishioners by phone; just to say hi, Happy Easter and make sure you are all still doing fine. I hope you will look forward to their call and will enjoy the chat. I know Seminarian Kevin will enjoy the chance to talk to someone other than Fr. Greg and myself. 25 months from this Tuesday, April 7th, should be Kevin's ordination day, May 7, 2022. This is of course "God Willing, the Bishop agreeing and the age of miracles not being over." 😊

