



*We, the Catholic community of SS. Peter & Paul lovingly welcome you to help shepherd and build the Kingdom of God.*

April 3, 2020

My dear friends in Christ,

I send you greetings and love as we enter into this Holy Week! As I sit here and write this letter, I continue to lift each of our three linked parishes and each one of you in prayer. My hope is that this Holy Week you and I may each encounter the living Christ in a new and eye-opening way and that His life may rise within each one of us.

I wrote in my column this past Sunday that Holy Week for Jesus and his followers was, in fact, a week filled with fear and isolation and anxieties and unknowing. The things that we are experiencing right now, they knew well. But as followers of Jesus Christ, may I remind you where this all ends – with an empty tomb. I don't know how or when this current pandemic situation will end. I don't know what the lasting effects of it will be. But I know one thing – it will look like an empty tomb. Because that is the pattern. Life is stronger than death. It is the meaning of this week.

And know this: When Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane, he sweat blood and asked to be taken out of the situation. But when that prayer was not granted, he had a decision to make – how would he enter into what lay before him and what or whom would he take with him? He entered with love and forgiveness and took with him the One whom he knew would never abandon him. When we enter into times such as this – over which we have no control – the same Holy Week questions are thrust upon us. How will we enter into what lies before and around us and what or whom will we take with us?

I cannot answer the first part of that question for you, but might I suggest some offerings to take with you over the course of this Holy Week?

- If you have the ability, visit one of our parish websites and click the YouTube link. You will be able to watch and pray with us as we walk through Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Mass. Each one of these liturgies will be available to you at the time we would have celebrated them together.
- Scripture! Follow Jesus in your own Bible as he journeys from His triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the empty tomb. Or visit [usccb.org](http://usccb.org), go to the calendar on the right and click on that day's date - the readings of the day will come up.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated weekly: Sunday at 9:00 a.m. (Ss. Peter & Paul) and Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. (Holy Rosary)

- Spiritual Communion! Our parishes are still open and will be open *MORE* during Holy Week. Here is the schedule:
  - Palm Sunday – all three parishes open, 9:00 a.m. – Noon
  - Monday, April 6 – Ss. Peter & Paul, 3-6:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, April 7 – St. Ann, 3-6:00 p.m.
  - Wednesday, April 8 – Holy Rosary, 3-6:00 p.m.
  - Holy Thursday – all three parishes open, 5-8:00 p.m.
  - Good Friday – all three parishes open, Noon – 3:00 p.m.
  - Holy Saturday – Holy Rosary, 3-6:00 p.m.
  - Easter Sunday – all three parishes open, 9:00 a.m. – Noon

The Eucharist will be exposed each one of those days, with the exception of Good Friday. Come spend time with Christ in Eucharistic form. Invite Him in.

- Are podcasts your thing? Cup o' Joe is up and running. Visit [ssppkiel.org](http://ssppkiel.org) and click the purple podcast link on the front page or subscribe through iTunes or Spotify. It's a 10-12 minute look at the Gospel of the Day, a reflection and praying the Rosary.
- Bring St. Joseph with you! Remember that he is the guardian and protector of the Church – and that is not just our building, it is you and I! Bishop Ricken has invited this year (March 19, 2020 – March 19, 2021) to be the Year of St. Joseph. Included are some prayers, some information and a litany of St. Joseph. Pray them often.

Sisters and Brothers, it may seem to you that this Holy Week, the Church is shuttered. But it is not! We are the Church! And we are on a mission like we have never been! Whenever you are reaching out to a grandchild or grandparent, you are being Church! Whenever you are checking in on a neighbor, you are being Church! Whenever you are doing an errand for someone, dropping off a package, brightening someone's day, mailing a card, praying for those afflicted by this disease or assisting our emergency personnel, you are being Church!

Yes, this is a period of isolation and doubt and wonder and grief and pain. But so was Holy Week. We do walk through this week with Christ – and never doubt that He walks through it with you. If there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to contact our parish offices or call me directly at (920)918.0903. We want to walk with you, too.

Wishing you every joy and consolation this Holy Week and always. I remain,

In Christ,



Joseph A Zenk  
 Pastoral Leader  
 St. Ann Parish  
 Holy Rosary Parish  
 Ss. Peter & Paul Parish