

From the Desk of Fr. Chris

It has been a very sad time to see so much of our society shutdown in order to isolate us from one another and stop the spread of this horrible disease. In the midst of this sadness is the closing of our Churches to public visits. I miss you all and look forward to the day that we can once again be with each other.

I do, however, enthusiastically support the orders for us to practice social distancing and stop the spread of this disease. I also want to acknowledge all the health care workers and so many other occupations that are sacrificing and risking their own health to care for the rest of us. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I am trying to do my part in staying connected to you with the help of our deacons and a skeleton crew to provide daily and weekly Mass for you via our live stream on the internet. This past weekend we had 2,000 homes login and watch our two Masses. If you haven't found us yet visit www.stagnesc.com and follow the links at the top of our home page.

I commend Bishop for the heroic actions he has taken to keep us healthy. I share a quote from one of his directives. "At the crux of any decision is that we must abide by Government Mandates, avoiding any unnecessary physical contact and urging our faithful to remain home as much as possible."

I had the privilege to join him in conference call the other day and it looks increasingly unlikely that we will resume public Masses for Holy Week. We need to alert our parishioners to the sad reality. I am making a plan to best serve you remotely during this time.

Out of fairness for our distributors I will be receiving Palms and also be receiving our Easter Flower Order. The government is now asking all of our citizens to stay home so there is no reasonable approach to distribution of Palms. We will hold them until we reopen. We will take flower orders in memory of loved ones and be able to use them to decorate for our live streaming. Any excess flowers will be used somehow in the community for charitable purpose.

Holy Week.

Palm Sunday Masses 4pm Saturday & 10am Sunday on our Live Stream over the internet.

Holy Thursday 7pm Mass on our Live Stream.

Good Friday 3pm & 7pm on our Live Stream. Stations available anytime on our website.

Holy Saturday 7pm on our Live Stream. (Pittsfield and Dalton Cable will televise at 1301).

Easter Sunday 10am on our Live Stream.

Please be assured of my prayers for your health and well-being. We gratefully appreciate those who are mailing in their offertory envelopes and those who have signed up for on-line giving.

For more information on either visit our homepage on the website. Best wishes to all as we continue an unusual lent but one that calls us to greater sacrifice than usual.

All my best and prayers. Love, Fr. Chris