

March 22, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope and pray that your Season of Lent has been a time of spiritual and personal renewal in preparation for our celebration of the Lord's resurrection.

As I mentioned at all the Masses last weekend, our public worship continues to be impacted by the ongoing restrictions and guidelines associated with the Coronavirus. **Following the advice of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, Palms will not be distributed on Palm Sunday.** Additional restrictions and guidelines for Holy Week have been issued by the Diocese of Fall River.

These include omitting the washing of feet, as well as the Eucharistic procession at the end of Mass on Holy Thursday. On Good Friday, the Veneration of the Cross will take place, only from the pews, with a genuflection or a bow as the priest raises the cross in the sanctuary. The Easter Vigil will not include a new fire, a light service, or a procession at the beginning of the service. There are also no Baptisms or Confirmations scheduled at the Easter Vigil this year.

Although the Mass schedule for Easter Sunday has typically been the same as our regular Sunday schedule, we will add a 9:30 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday this year. This is due to the limited capacity of our church due to social distancing, and a potential higher number of people coming to Mass for Easter. So, **on Easter Sunday, we will have Masses at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Please note that the Easter Vigil Mass in English will be celebrated on Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m.** There is no 5 p.m. Mass on the Saturday before Easter.

There will be no reservation system for the English Holy Week and Easter Services. We will continue to open the church 30 minutes before each service and allow people to enter until all of the available spaces in the church are occupied. Please remember that, as always, every service in the church is live-streamed. So, if you are unable to gain admittance to the church, you can still participate in the service via the live-stream link on our parish website.

If you do come to church, **please follow the instructions of the greeters about where to sit.** In order to maximize capacity, individuals or couples will be asked to sit in the side pews, over near the wall. The middle pews will be reserved for three or more people from the same household until all of the side pews are occupied.

Please remember that despite all the restrictions and limitations in our ability to celebrate the events of Holy Week and Easter liturgically, **the meaning and the impact of these celebrations in our lives remains the same.** May the events we celebrate during this sacred week touch your hearts and impact your lives!

Peace,

Fr. John Kelleher