

April 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week 2020. It seems strange to be thinking about marking the holiest week of the liturgical year in the midst of a pandemic with its particular challenges and difficulties. Normally, I would be inviting everyone to gather and celebrate the Paschal Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, all leading to the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter. This year, in the midst of staying at home and social distancing, we may wonder how best to enter into the mystery and spirit of Holy Week. As we approach this week, one thing is certain: this week will not be like anything any of us has gone through before.

I wish to bring you up to date on what the staff and I are attempting to do to keep us together *while we are apart* as a parish community:

Live-stream Masses: Please consult our parish website for a listing of these Masses as well as all live-stream liturgies during Holy Week. There are also resources available at the diocesan website—[dor.org](http://dor.org)—as well.

Chapel Visits: The chapel will be open for private prayer most days during Holy Week. Please consult the parish website for these times.

Palm: Blessed palm will be available in the vestibule on Saturday, Palm Sunday, and during Holy Week.

Parish Office: The parish office remains closed. If you have a *non-emergency need*, please call 607-739-3817; this number is checked regularly.

Emergencies: If there is an emergency or pastoral need, please call the parish office at the above number, leave a message and you will receive a return call.

Food Donations: Please continue to bring your donations of food and place them in the food cart in the vestibule. There continues to be a great need for food for local food pantries during this pandemic.

Financial Contributions: Throughout this time of crisis, the parish continues to have bills and payroll obligations. If you donate via the Sunday collection, please mail your contributions to the parish office at 816 West Broad Street, Horseheads, New York 14845. If you visit the church, there is a box in the vestibule where you can leave your contribution.

Please consult our new parish web-site for updates. You continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as we begin Holy Week. Also, thank you for your phone calls, cards, and notes with your words of encouragement.

Take care of yourselves and each other!

Father Chris Linsler