

March 31, 2020

Dear Parishioners

Today, the psalmist reminds us that “though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.” In these days, which at times may seem darkened by uncertainty and isolation, we remain confident that our Lord is at our side reminding us of his unconditional love for each of us. Our prayer continues to be for those in our ministry who are particularly in need during this time, especially the lonely, the elderly, the sick and those who care for them.

What updates have happened since the last update?

- Yesterday, Governor Northam issued Executive Order 55 (EO 55) which is effective through June 10, 2020. The Executive Order does clarify that “all public and private in-person gatherings of more than ten individuals are prohibited. This includes parties, celebrations, religious, or other social events, whether they occur indoors or outdoors” (EO 55; 2).
 - Therefore, Bishop Knestout directs all parishes, schools, and campus ministries to not host any gatherings of more than ten individuals (including priests, deacons, or laity).
 - Gatherings of more than ten individuals inside any church facility or outside, including in vehicles, is prohibited. The only exception is if a parish, school, or campus ministry hosts an event where individuals can drive into a parking lot and move through it to obtain something (such as a palm) similar to a drive-through at a restaurant.
 - **With this in mind, We will be distributing Palms in the Church parking lot on Palm Sunday from 12 noon to 2PM.** Please enter the parking lot across from the church from Randolph avenue and exit onto Nectarine St. It is important that you **DO NOT** exit your car. Our volunteers will be wearing gloves and masks for the protection of us all. We will also have a basket available for offering envelopes and will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items for the food bank.

Bishop Knestout is pleased to announce our first-ever diocesan-wide virtual Holy Week Mission. This engaging Mission will take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night of Holy Week from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. It will feature three dynamic priests from our Diocese, music and choirs from across the Diocese, and four lay speakers. During the Mission, there will be an opportunity for discussion and activities for families at home. More details, including marketing materials, will be available soon.

Resources and Up-to-Date Information:

- Central Repository of diocese’s response to COVID-19: www.richmonddiocese.org/coronavirus (or in Spanish www.richmonddiocese.org/coronavirus-recursos)
- Prayer and Worship resources: www.cdrworship.org/coronavirus
- I will continue to provide updates, primarily through our website at www.stcharlesbcc.org, and through email.

Please know that you continue to be in my prayers.
Yours In Christ,

Rev. J. Michael Breslin

Pastor