

To: St. Malachy Parish Members

From: Fr. Pakula

3/23/20

Dear All,

We have received some further instruction from Bishop Jenky, the most important of which is this:

Our church is to remain locked during our Shelter in Place until April 8. This means that we will not have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday's or scheduled times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday's. This also means, regrettably, that you will not be able to stop in at church for private prayer. Bishop Jenky also indicated, understandably, that celebrating Holy Week and Easter in church is extremely unlikely, virtually an impossibility.

Since we are not going to be able to use our church for some time, I would like to offer some possibilities for "spiritual" nourishment in your places of "shelter." You might consider using any or all of these if you are thinking about what can I/should I do.

1. You might read and reflect on the Scripture readings for this week's Masses which are:

Monday: Isaiah 65:17-21

John 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12

John 51:1-16

Wednesday: Isaiah 49:8-15

John: 5:17-30

OR

For the feast of the Annunciation

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10

Hebrews 10:4-10

Luke 1:26-38

Thursday: Exodus 32:7-14

John 5:31-47

Friday: Wisdom 2:1, 12-22

John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jeremiah 11:18-20

John 7:40-53

Sunday: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

2. You might do more Scripture reading in general. If so, I would suggest beginning with any of the four Gospels or with the First Letter of John or with the Acts of the Apostles or with any of St. Paul's letters, though I would suggest Ephesians, Philippians or Colossians. You might also read from the Old Testament where my beginning suggestions are Proverbs, Wisdom or Sirach.
3. You certainly can pray the Stations of the Cross and/or the Rosary at home either individually or with others.
4. Finally, you might want to check out programs on EWTN, if your television provider allows you to do so, or you might spend some time listening to Relevant Radio 95.3 FM.

Hopefully, these suggestions might be helpful if you are looking for things to consider for "spiritual" nourishment.

Let me also add that if your situation is such that you cannot get out for groceries or other necessary supplies, please call the Parish Office and let us know. I am sure we can get someone to help. If you call and get our voice mail service, please leave your name and phone number, and we will get back to you.

Thank you all for doing your part to try to protect our whole community from this potential deadly virus. Again, my prayers remain with you, our community, our state, our country, our world.

Fr. Mike Pakula