

## **Letter to the Parishioners, April 13**

My Dear People of God,

It is 7am on Easter Monday, April 13, 2020. I have been thinking about the last month as well as the future.

It was Saturday, March 14 and Fr. Frank Sacks was saying the 4:30 Mass. I came out to make the Announcements. I told you of all the things we would be cancelling. I said clearly that at that time we were not cancelling Masses. Two hours later, that changed. The next morning I opened the church, as directed, and warned people that there would be no Masses until further notice.

We kept the office open that week and Elaine Ebaugh and Tom Osborne began putting together a program that would allow us to reach many of you through e-mail. Others we had to do the old-fashioned way, through phone calls. Our messages to you were either about restrictions to what we were allowed to do or openings that we could still utilize. Our church, generally locked after the morning Mass was left open throughout the day as a place of prayer. Numbers of you (Buchheit's, Lewis family, Denise McKenna and others) took the opportunity to come and pray. On Sundays, we placed the Blessed Sacrament on the altar for the entire morning as small numbers of you came through to watch and pray.

Fr. Harry and I searched for new ways to pastor our flock, when we could not see or be with the flock. We used the emails to reach you and help you get through what for all of us has been the strangest Lent and Holy Week we have ever lived through. We also got hold of Mike Forrence to see if we could arrange for our Masses in the church to be live-streamed to our Parishioners. We started doing that on Palm Sunday. The last count was that 875 people have turned on that Mass. Easter Sunday 475 people have watched that Mass live. We now have a new tool with which to care for our church.

We asked you to continue to support your parish, and you have. Tomorrow, I will share with you the totals for Palm Sunday and Easter. I will tell you that one group I really miss are "The Counters." But your support has been more than financial. When we asked the small numbers that we can have in the church to come and serve or read, you have been there. Harry and I very much appreciate your kind e-mails, notes and texts of encouragement. This is a Community of faith, hope and love. And while the church building is empty. The church herself is filled with God's great gifts because you are filled with these gifts.

It has been a month and we are not done yet. I ask today for your wisdom and insight as we move forward into our still unclear future. What ideas do you have for these days ahead? You can call me or text me at 215-280-4701 or email me at [martymcgeough@yahoo.com](mailto:martymcgeough@yahoo.com). You can also send your thoughts to Elaine who will get them here. Stay safe and God Bless you in this Craziest of Easter Season.

Fr. Marty