



PARISH LIFE UPDATE

Holy Family Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2020

This update will be issued for every Sunday in lieu of the Sunday Bulletin. Please also refer to the Pastor's Update on our website (www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org).

PASTOR'S MESSAGE | Strength For This Season of Suffering

There is suffering due to limited access to the sacraments at this time. Priests and the people whom they serve are suffering.

Some want to appeal to the martyrs to advocate for the lifting of the suspensions before it is safe to do so. This is wrong. First, the martyrs were killed because they insisted on professing their faith when civic authorities or others threatened to kill them if they did. This is not our situation.

Second, martyrs did not put other persons in danger. If we gathered in our church buildings while we are approaching the top of the curve in Maryland, with unknown numbers of asymptomatic persons carrying the virus, of which there is no vaccination yet... what would happen in our congregations? Transmission of COVID-19 in the congregation and any area in which infected congregants would go after they left the church building.

I will refer to 2 Timothy 1:7 again. God has not given us a spirit of fear. We do not need to panic. – God has given us a sound mind. We are acting with prudence. We do not put God to the test by ignoring the protocols of hygiene (all the time) and temporary social distancing. God has given us love. We are doing these things because we care for the well-being of others. God has given us power. We trust that our prayers for the world to overcome COVID-19 will be answered. We act as instruments by which God will answer our prayers.

There is suffering due to limited access to the sacraments at this time. I have learned that during any season of suffering, there are choices to make. One choice is to become embittered or to examine how the experience can make me a better person.

There is limited access to the sacraments, but the grace of God has not been suspended. God being God, God can still engage in personal encounters with us. Prayer, reading the Bible, reading the Catechism, works of mercy as possible (e.g., checking in on a neighbor, praying for others who are suffering too), etc. The grace of God is there for us to receive.

Do not let the enemy of our souls get you so discouraged that you do not recognize and receive these opportunities to be with God. The enemy will have you focus on what you cannot do and ignore God's invitations to engage in what you can do.

Do not let the enemy cause you to be resentful because the clergy are still receiving the Eucharist. (As a side note, the lay persons who assist me with live-streaming do not receive the Eucharist. I do not want any parishioner to wonder if I am “playing favorites.”)

During my illness in 2011, there were times in which I was not strong enough to offer Holy Mass in my hospital room or at my mother’s house. But I did not think that I was closed off to God’s grace.

There are examples throughout the centuries of Catholics who grew in holiness while they had limited access to the Eucharist. For example, see: <https://aleteia.org/2020/03/18/saints-who-have-had-to-live-without-the-eucharist/>

This trial is only for a season. It is designed to prevent more suffering. Listen to the testimonies of patients, grieving loved ones, exhausted medical personnel, and others. This is necessary. It is only for a season.

The grace of God is still available to strengthen, heal, console, and liberate. God is giving us help right now to ensure that we will not suspend the exercise of our faith, our hope, and our love. Thanks be to God!

Father Raymond Harris

SUNDAY READINGS

April 19: Second Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47 + Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-23
1 Peter 1:3-9 + John 20:19-31

April 26: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 2:14,22-33 + Psalm 16:1-2,5, 7-11
1 Peter 1:17-21 + Luke 24:13-35

SUNDAY OFFERTORY

This does not include what was given for "second collections. Before the suspension of Holy Mass with the presence of the faithful, we averaged between \$5,000 - \$7,000 on a Sunday. Please do what you can to help your parish to maintain our mission. Options on how to give can be found here.

March 15: \$1,358

March 29: \$4,878

April 12: \$5,418

March 22: \$803

April 5: \$5,235

This will be updated next Sunday to include contribution made through electronic funds transfer.

Electronically: Learn how to use Give Central at www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/give

Via your bank: Please send your check to “Holy Family Church, 9531 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD 21133”

Mail: Send your offertory envelope or check to: Holy Family Church, 9531 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD 21133

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 18

Intention: Father Raymond Harris (req. by another person)

Celebrant: Father Harris

Saturday, April 18

Intention: Maria Lee

Celebrant: Father Angel

Sunday, April 19

Intention: Helene Atelefack †

Celebrant: Monsignor Collins

Sunday, April 19

Intention: People of the Parish

Celebrant: Father Harris

Sunday, April 19

Intention: James Knott

Celebrant: Father Angel

Monday, April 20

Intention: Maria Lee

Celebrant: Father Angel

Tuesday, April 21

Intention: Elizabeth Schroeder †

Celebrant: Father Harris

Wednesday, April 22

Intention: Blain Topel

Celebrant: Father Harris

Thursday, April 23

Intention: Chancelor Claypool

Celebrant: Father Harris

Friday, April 24

Intention: Sister Mary Dominic †

Celebrant: Father Angel

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Rocco Aliberti, K. Dale Anderson, Mary Anna Baffoe-Bonnie, Rose Balk, E. Alan Ball, Albert Blanchard, Mary & Hal Blanton, Annette Brown, Josephine Burns, Beth Cassidy, Jeanette Cherigos, Chinyere Chikeka, JoAnn Coules, Liam Craane, Helen Dorman, Veronica Dougherty, Cassie Downey, Dorothy Eichelman, Neva Farrah, Barbara Failla, Guy Gable, John Gast, Dot & Joe Gertz, Cullis Glenn, Gary Gordon, Edward D. Green, Lisa Grey, Jeanie Hakanson, Sherell Hinton, Margaret Irwin, Mildred Jones, Cheryl Kauffman, Cassidy Keefe, Greyson Knight, Mary Liberto, Jeffrey Lohinski, Jane Matos, Jack McGinnis, Nancy McQuay, Bob Moan, Peggy Moan, Randy Norden, Margaret Ntatin, Leobarda Olivares, Cathy Owens, Darcia Parker, Joseph Perozziello, Don Rojas, Lincoln Ross, Vince Rosso, Paul & Elizabeth Ruch, Brenda Sadowski, Rosa Santos, Anthony Serio, Shannon Sharpe, Thelma Smith, Joanne Spriggs, Dottie Swol, Dorothy Lynne Sutch, Greg Thompson, Kimberly Thompson, and Catherine Walsh.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

May Herbert Bailey, Francis Brady Jr. , and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

NEWS

ARCHBISHOP EXTENDS GREETINGS: On Thursday, April 6, Archbishop William Lori called Father Harris. He extends greetings to our parish for a blessed Easter. He is praying for the faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION: This Sunday at 3 PM on Facebook Live (www.fb.com/HFCRandallstown), join Father Harris in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet with Eucharistic Adoration. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view. See www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/video

LIVE-STREAM OF HOLY MASS & DEVOTIONS: While it is not the same of being there in person, parishioners have expressed gratitude for this option. Watch and worship on Facebook Live.

The schedule: www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/livestream.

No Facebook account? No problem! See: <https://www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/video>

EASTER MARIAN ANTIPHON: During the Easter season, we pray the Regina caeli instead of the Angelus at 6 AM (or whenever you arise), Noon, and 6 PM. The text is:

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of thy son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech thee, that through the intercession of the virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FATHER HARRIS' SUNDAY HOMILY: When there is time, Father Harris will post his Sunday homilies. The Easter Sunday homily can be found here: www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/homily

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS: While we cannot schedule baptisms at this time, parents who want their child baptized can participate in a session now. Please contact Mr.s JoAnn Harvan-Chin (joann.harvan@archbalt.org or 410-922-3800, ext. 5).

MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Our Director of Faith Formation is leading a new Bible Study composed by her on the mysteries of the Rosary. The study begins with the Glorious Mysteries since this is the Easter season. It meets on Thursdays at 10 AM on Zoom video conferencing. Contact Mrs. JoAnn Harvan-Chin, (joann.harvan@archbalt.org or 410-922-3800, ext. 5).to receive an invitation to join the session.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: On Thursday, April 23 at 7 PM on Facebook Live, Father Harris will begin a new series, "Risen with Christ During this Challenging Time." After the resurrection of the Lord, His disciples began to see his teaching about suffering in a new light. During this season of suffering, how can we be strengthened by the teaching of Christ. Jesus said to His disciples, "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33).

SUNDAY SCHOOL OF RELIGION: Mrs. JoAnn Harvan- Chin, Director of Faith Formation, has been in contact with parents and guardians. They will receive a packet to help with the faith formation of their children for the rest of the 2019-2020 year. She is meeting with the Confirmation Class and other students preparing for the sacraments via Zoom video conferencing.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION POSTPONED: Archbishop Lori has decided that First Communions and Confirmations scheduled in May must be postponed. Once we return back to some sense of normalcy, we will set new dates in consultation with the parents.

SEMINARIAN SAM HUFFER: Archbishop Lori has appointed seminarian Sam Huffer to serve in our parish during the summer. He is completing his first year at Saint John Paul II College Seminary in Washington, D.C. His home parish is Saint Peter the Apostle, Libertytown. His start date depends on when it is safe to do so and civil orders.

DEACON EVAN PONTON: He continues to be assigned to our parish. He is living at the Church of the Resurrection Rectory in Ellicott City. In an abundance of caution, he cannot travel from one rectory to another. We hope to have him engage in ministry via Zoom video conferencing and other means. Deacon Evan is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in June, but it could be postponed due to the pandemic.

SEMINARIANS MICHAEL MISULIA & MICHAEL PRESTON: You may remember that they were assigned with Deacon Evan as part of a Parish Learning Team from Saint Mary's Seminary. All the seminarians in Maryland and Washington, D.C. sent their seminarians back to their home dioceses, where they are engaged in distance learning. Michael Misulia is living at the Our Lady of Victory Rectory in Arbutus. Michael Preston is living at home in the Diocese of Wilmington. He is preparing for ordination to the diaconate in May but it could be postponed due to the pandemic.