



The Shell

An e-letter for

Saint James the Greater Church,
3565 Hubble Road
Cincinnati, Ohio

March 30, 2020 ... UPDATES...

I pray that you are doing well. Like you, I have been hiding in my house and the office, where I am still alone. My only outings have been to the grocery (which I was abundantly advised not to do) and for a friend's funeral. It is so important for us to following the suggestions on physical distancing. It seems to be the most effective way to control the virus.

Let us not give up on our prayers for each other and the whole world. We always talk about the power of prayer and situations like this test our convictions. So, let's double down on talking with God. In my own prayers, sometimes I sound like the ancient Israelites, asking God to work some monumental sign to cure the world of the virus with one single act. But the Lord seldom works that way and I must rely on God's goodness. Let God know how hard this time is, and He will sustain you.

Don't forget the *Memorare* at Noon every day. We can still pray together every day.

I am sure that everybody is wondering when public Masses will begin again. I have the privilege of celebrating Mass each day and receiving the Eucharist. I know you are hungry to be fed with that same Bread of Heaven. The Archbishop's decree, along with all the Ohio bishops, says that all public Masses are suspended "at least through the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter." Listening to the medical experts on TV, just as you do, I think the suspension will be extended, maybe significantly. Right now, we just don't know when we will be able to gather for Mass. Our love for each other means we stay apart at this time. When we hear what the bishops have decided, I will let you know right away.

The cancellation of all parish events also continues until further notice.

Some of the notices below are in response to questions parishioners have asked. I've encountered people using our parking lot for walking. Staying far apart, we've been able to talk and share some thoughts. If you need a relatively flat place to walk, the church lots are good. Also, I have seen people do "drive up praying" at the Mary garden. It is a good place to sit and pray, whether in your car or on a bench.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Nolker

Notices

First Communion

We were preparing to welcome our children to the Table of the Lord on May 2. With school being closed, the necessary instruction has not been completed. Nor do we know when school will reopen. Therefore, we had to postpone First Communion. No new date has been chosen since we do not know when instruction will be resume.

Church Open

The church will be open Monday through Friday for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. This is so individuals can pray; do not come in groups! If there are several people present, be sure to stay 6 feet apart.

Parish Contributions

Although public Masses are discontinued for the time-being, we still need your financial support. Our bills continue to come in; we need your financial support. Please mail your contributions to the parish office, drop them off (*A box is available inside the office door for mail etc. at least until Noon, Monday through Friday.*) or donate electronically at WeShare. To use WeShare, go to the parish website, click Online Giving, and then follow directions.

Palms

Rome has issued a directive that palms are NOT to be blessed in parishes, although they are to be blessed at cathedrals. So, while Father will have a private Mass that morning, he cannot bless palms. So, no palms this year.

Palm Sunday, April 5, Drive-Thru

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week and although we are unable to celebrate this most sacred time of year with the beautiful liturgies, we can do something to “come together” as a parish family. While we are not permitted to bless and distribute palms this year, we will be distributing the “Little White Books” for your personal prayer throughout the 50 days of the Easter Season.

Normally, during the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, parishioners bring non-perishable food and grocery items which we donate to the Corpus Christi Food Pantry. The poor served by this pantry rely on contributions and even more so in this challenging time.

Also, our own St. Vincent de Paul Society continues their work of providing immediate relief those most in need—and that need is climbing. Without our gathering at Mass on March 29, the 5th Sunday of the month, this normal collection was not taken.

Finally, the work of the parish goes on with our dedicated staff. Maintenance and unexpected repairs to our facilities are just as much of a daily reality as before the mandated shutdown.

So, on **Palm Sunday, April 5th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon**, volunteers will be in the large parking lot for you to “drive-thru” to:

- Pick up your “Little White Book”

- Drop off non-perishable food/grocery items (**You can also make a cash donation or write a check payable to Corpus Christi Food Pantry.**)
- Drop off your tithing/parish offering.
- Drop off a donation to St. Vincent de Paul (**Make check payable to St. Vincent de Paul.**)
- Give us a written prayer request for anyone who is sick, in the hospital, suffering in any way. These people will be added to our prayer chain and kept in our daily prayer.

We will be keeping the physical distancing that is so important. Put groceries in your trunk, and the volunteers will take them out. You will not need to get out of your car to get a Little White Book,” drop off food, or donate to SVDP or the parish! Together we can do great things for our parish and surrounding communities!

Holy Week from the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains

For your planning purposes, the following is the Holy Week schedule at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains. The livestream gives us an opportunity to pray with our Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishop during these difficult days. These will all be livestreamed:

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| • Sunday, April 5, 11:00 a.m. | Palm Sunday Mass (Archbishop Schnurr, celebrant) |
| • Tuesday, April 7, 1:00 p.m. | Chrism Mass (Archbishop Schnurr) |
| • Thursday, April 9, 5:00 p.m. | Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Archbishop Schnurr) |
| • Friday, April 10, 5:00 p.m. | Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion (Bishop Binzer) |
| • Saturday, April 11, 5:00 p.m. | Easter Vigil (Archbishop Schnurr) |
| • Sunday, April 12, 11:00 a.m. | Easter Sunday (Bishop Binzer) |

To watch, go to catholiccincinnati.org.

Holy Week with Pope Francis

The Holy Week liturgies from the Vatican are being adapted because of the pandemic. Only the ministers will be present with the Holy Father. They will be following the same adjusted regulations sent out across the world for this Holy Week. If you want to join the Holy Father for these liturgies, EWTN and catholic tv.org will probably carry most of them. Times given are for Cincinnati but telecasts might be changed.

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| • Sunday, April 5, 5:00 a.m. | Palm Sunday |
| • Thursday, April 9, 12:00 noon | Mass of the Lord’s Supper |
| • Friday, April 10, 12:00 Noon | Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion |
| • Saturday, April 11, 3:00 p.m. | Easter Vigil |
| • Sunday, April 12, 5:00 a.m. | Easter Sunday Mass, <i>Urbi et Orbi</i> blessing |

Mass on the web or TV

The archdiocesan website will be livestreaming a daily Mass and weekend Mass from the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains. Daily Mass will be available online at 8 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday Mass will be live-streamed at 9:30 a.m. in Spanish and at 11 a.m. in English. All live-streaming Masses will also be available on the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicCincinnati/>.

Daily Mass is also available on catholicv.org at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Sunday catholicv.org televises Mass from the Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame at 10 a.m. Daily Masses are also available on TV from EWTN at 8:00 a.m., Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Confession

Some people have expressed concern about the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Archbishop has repeated what was issued by the Holy See concerning confession. These points are taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Special attention was given to paragraph [1452](#).

[1458](#) Without being strictly necessary, confession of everyday faults (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. Indeed, the regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience.

[1452](#) When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called "perfect" (contrition of charity). Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.

It's always important remember what is taught in this paragraph:

[1859](#) Mortal sin requires *full knowledge* and *complete consent*. It presupposes knowledge of the sinful character of the act, of its opposition to God's law. It also implies a consent sufficiently deliberate to be a personal choice. (Emphases is in the original.)