



ST. DENIS Parish

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LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS TRAIN DISCIPLES

Eucharistic Celebrations :

Palm Sunday, April 5th - private mass – Andrew Labossiere (P. Cormier family)

Easter Sunday, April 12th private mass – Odile Divorne (famille Divorne)

Father Peter will continue to celebrate masses daily in private to the intentions requested by parishioners.

Sanctuary Lamp – this week: **For protection against Covid-19**

God's Share this month: \$1193.00 + \$35.00 loose + \$280.00 (DD) = **\$1508.00**

Accueil d'Âge d'Or Haywood: Noon meal of April 7th is cancelled as well as the annual meeting of April 22nd.

Finance Committee: Meeting of April 22nd
Is also cancelled.

**Blessed Holy Week !
&
Happy Easter !**



April 5, 2020 - Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) (A)

Words from Fr. Peter to parishioners of St. Claude and St. Denis,

Brothers and sisters,

We are living in unprecedented times; times that have created significant challenges and difficulties for us all. We are uncertain about how long self-isolation and social distancing will last, or when this pandemic is over. However, as Christians, one thing we know for certain is that, with the eyes of faith, the Lord is with us always, to the end of the age, as he promised (Mt 28:19). As we approach the Holy Week, we experience in a deeper way the love of God for us. The dying in humiliation of Jesus on the cross is the most powerful evidence of his unconditional love for humanity. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16). Yes, Jesus died for us. He died for you and for me, sinners. He died and resurrected so that we may have life, and have it abundantly. "O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1).

I would like to take this precious opportunity to share with you the meaning of the liturgical celebrations during the Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK is the most important time in the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar. During the Holy Week, the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his life on earth. We recall the events that led to His death and Resurrection.

PALM SUNDAY: On the Sunday before Easter, we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Crowds cheered for Jesus by waving palm branches and laying them along his path. At Church, we receive palms to remind us of this.

The climax of the Holy Week is the **SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM**. Through his Paschal Mystery, the Lord Jesus redeemed the human race and gave perfect glory to the Father. By dying, Christ destroyed our death; by rising, he restored our life. For this reason, the Paschal Triduum, when we celebrate the suffering, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, is the high point of the Liturgical Year.

HOLY THURSDAY: We remember the night Jesus celebrated the Last Supper. Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the ministerial priesthood. He had set an example of serving and loving to the end by washing the feet of his disciples. He invited us to do the same: "wash one another's feet".

GOOD FRIDAY: We commemorate the crucifixion and death of our Lord Jesus. We have the meditation on the Ways of the Cross, and veneration of the Cross to express our reverence and gratitude for Christ's sacrifice for our sins. "We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world". This is the only day of the year that in the universal Church, there is no consecration of the Eucharist, and the Communion we receive is from the night before, which has been reserved in the tabernacle.

Good Friday is a universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat. The Church invites us to fast and spend more time in silent prayer to honour the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare to share more deeply in the joy of his resurrection.

HOLY SATURDAY: On Holy Saturday, the people of God remain in prayer and fasting at the tomb of the Lord, meditating on his sufferings, death, and descent to the dead. Throughout this day, the faithful are invited to continue the solemn paschal fast which they began on Good Friday. We keep watch for the expectant rising of Our Savior.

In the evening, we celebrate solemnly the Vigil Service, a night of prayer which looks forward to the celebration of the Lord's resurrection; mourning will give way to the joys of Eastertide. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

Some announcements to share with you as follows:

1, New Directives from our Archbishop.

The March 27 directive of Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Public Health Officer, also remains in force: **“Public gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor place or premises. This includes places of worship, gatherings and family events such as weddings and funerals.”**

Places of Worship: The latter point being still in effect, churches can still be open to receive individuals or families who wish to come on their own initiative to pray. This of course presumes all the hygienic measures that the Public Health officials are constantly reminding us:

- Physical distancing (2 metres)
- No flu-like symptoms
- No one who should be in social isolation because of travel or have been in contact with people who possibly have COVID-19.

The time may come when the Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Brent Roussin, reduces gatherings to 5 or 3 or 2 people. Then, we readily adjust for the common good. And, who knows, the day may come where the Chief Public Health Officer, with the full force of the Provincial Government, dictates a lock-down where everyone is to stay in their house and only go out the door for the most essential of needs. This is the case right now in several European countries. Then, of course, our church buildings will be locked.

But until then, they need not be, and I would encourage parishes to continue offering some hours where people completely of their own initiative, can come to pray and adore the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

2, Liturgical Celebrations:

2.1, In our parishes:

+ **Palms will be available for both parishes at the holy water font in St. Claude after the private Mass at 7AM.**

In Haywood, palms will be available at the back of the church, after 8:30 AM.

Please respect social distancing if you come and pick up palms for your family.

+ **During the Holy Week, I invite you to join me to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and Holy Rosary at 3 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. If the Wi-Fi quality permits, this will be live streamed on the parish Facebook page.**

+ **Ringing of Church Bells:** Archbishop LeGatt invites parishes to ring church bells at noon on Easter Sunday and on every Sunday until Pentecost, i.e. till the end of the Easter season. In St. Denis- Haywood, we will ring the bells to express the joy of Easter, and to express our gratitude to all frontline workers who dedicate themselves for the service of many people during this pandemic. We are invited to show our deep appreciation for all these people and pray for them.

+ In compliance with the government order and the directives from our archbishop regarding the practices of self-isolation and social distancing for the common good of all, I will celebrate daily Mass privately to pray for all of you, or participate in diocesan Paschal Triduum celebrations in communion with His Grace Albert LeGatt, the Shepherd of our archdiocese.

2.2, Diocesan Livestreamed Liturgy

+ **Palm Sunday: French at 9:00 AM; English at 10:30 AM. Both masses are presided by Archbishop Albert LeGatt at Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish.**

Masses are livestreamed via the diocesan Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ArchSaintBoniface/>

As well as on the Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFLbnkM6HIRYpb4QjiXeBOg/live>

+ Easter Triduum – Diocesan Livestreamed Liturgies

- **Holy Thursday: French at 6:00 PM; English at 8:00 PM**
- **Good Friday: French at 2:00 PM; English at 4:00 PM**
- **Easter Vigil: French at 9:00 PM (Presider, Archbishop Albert LeGatt at Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens Parish) English at 9:00 PM (Presider, Fr. Carl Tarnopolski, VG, at St. Bernadette Parish)**

Please follow our parish Facebook page: **“Paroisse Saint-Claude Parish”** for updated information.

Our church in St-Claude is open each day of the week from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM to allow individuals to come and pray. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will run during the same time.

In Haywood, the Blessed Sacrament is not exposed but the church is open every day from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM to allow individuals to come and pray, meditate the way of the cross and venerate the cross.

All Masses are cancelled until the further notice. So you can watch daily Mass, and Sunday Mass on TV, or through Facebook. I will share the link for daily Mass on our parish FB page. You can receive the Holy Communion spiritually by saying this prayer:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.” Amen.

In addition, I encourage you to pray the Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy for an end to the coronavirus pandemic and for the conversion of heart of all Christians, especially the loved ones in our parish.

I will be available at any time if you wish to receive a visit or a sacrament such as Holy Communion, Confession or Anointing of the Sick, or if you want to talk, please contact me at the parish number at 204-379-2434 or call me directly at 204-952-4531.

You are in my thoughts and my daily prayers! May the Lord keep you safe and healthy!

Have a blessed and grace-filled Holy Week and Happy Easter to all of you!

Fr. Peter Le