**OUR LADY OF FATIMA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

***Fr. Charles E. Holden, Pastor***

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 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  
April 5, 2020

**OUR FINANCIAL REPORT** – ***For the 2 weeks ending March 29***: $1,980.90

My Dear Brothers and Sisters – With heartfelt thanks, we want to thank you to for your continued support of the Parish. Even though we are unable to gather for the Holy Mass for the time being, your faithful tithe to support the Operating Expenses makes all the difference.   
In your kindness, may we request that you please send your Offerings in a *monthly check* to:  
“Our Lady of Fatima Church”, P. O. Box 116, Shady Cove, OR 97539. May the Lord God bless you, and we thank you, very much.

**RICE BOWLS –**

*The Rice Bowl Offering will be concluding soon. If you have been taking part in this devotion, perhaps the most convenient method would be for you to count your offering and send it by check to:* ***Our Lady of Fatima – “Rice Bowl Offering”***, *and we will send it along to the Rice Bowl Ministry.*

**PARISH NOTICE – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – *Safety*** *and* ***Security***

***In these uncertain times, we must also be mindful of keeping an eye out for the safety and security of our property.*** To safeguard the security of our hall and sacred space, as of **Monday, April 6**, the keyed locks for the Church and the Hall will be changed. This is necessary for two reasons. Several times in the past weeks and year the Church or Hall has been found unlocked and lights burning.  Also, there has been an increase in transient folks camping. These are safety, vandalism, theft and health risks.  New keys will be assigned and limited to only those who have an absolute requirement for one. If you have any questions, you may call Fr. Charles or Jim Favero (541-821-3457)

**VISITATIONS** –

For the present, as Fr. Charles is unable to receive you by appointment, he would still be grateful to hear from you and invites your call.  If he is not available when you call, please be sure to leave a message.  Our telephone shows only your number or “Private Caller”, and he has no way of knowing you called.  In your message, please state your name so that he can return your call.  541-878-2479

**STAYING CONNECTED** –

During this past week, our Brothers and Sisters in our Parish Family are continuing to reach out in our ***Martha Ministry***. This has been a wonderful and comforting way to remain connected.  It can be difficult to feel isolated until the cautionary admonition to stay at home is lifted. In calling, we want to lessen that feeling of isolation to let you know you are loved and not forgotten. As we continue in these days of uncertainty, in addition to our Telephone Tree Volunteers in the Martha Ministry, we hope you too will also reach out to our Parish Family.

**ARCHBISHOP SAMPLE** –

The Archbishop is very keen to be close to us. He invites us to join him in prayer and for the Sunday Liturgy by visiting the links at www.archdpdx.org.

**DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES** – **THE WORD of GOD** *and* **PRAYING THE ROSARY** –

The Archbishop and the Office of Divine Worship encourage the faithful to find great strength and comfort in reading the **Word of God** each day and to pray the **Holy Rosary**.  In fair weather, and keeping the prescribed spacing of “social distancing” of 6 feet, all are welcome to visit Our Lady’s Garden to pray and meditate.  
Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to monitor occupancy at this time, so it is difficult to open the doors of the church for adoration. However, the larger parishes in the Vicariate do have adoration times available as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and you may find those schedules on their respective websites.

For the Daily Readings of **The Word of God**, you may find weekly schedule listed in the bulletin cover above, and you may find them on the website of the Conference of U. S. Bishops – **www. usccb.org**

There is an increasing number of resources available to each of us to keep us informed and inspired. The webpage of the Archdiocese – **www.archdpdx.org** offers some amazing content to comfort us during this time of trial. There is our website – [www.fatimacatholic.org](http://www.fatimacatholic.org) and the websites of two of our Vicariate Parishes – Sacred Heart (<https://sacredheartmedford.org>); and St. Anne (<https://www.stannegp.com/>) that offer streaming services and devotions. And, there is the wonderful resource of **FORMED**. You may find out more by visiting: **www.formed.org**.  If you need help signing on, please contact Pam (541-878-4245) or Connie (541-878-2451). Please schedule a time in your day to prayerfully view these opportunities of grace.

**DAILY MASS** –

Each day, Fr. Charles offers the Holy Mass for and on behalf of the Parish and all our Parish Family. Even though this is known as a *“Missa privata”* and *“sine populo”* – a private Mass without the people present, you are nonetheless present in spirit.

*If you would like Fr. Charles to offer a specific Intention, please call the Parish Office and let Fr. Charles know.* 541-878-2479*.*

**ON THIS DAY –** *While We Wait* – A Pastoral Note:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters! Jerusalem, the Holy City is within view as our Blessed Lord enters the City’s gate to the shouts of “Hosanna” resounding in our ears. Very soon it will be difficult to recognize our blessed Lord: battered, scourged, crowned-with-thorns – a crucified remnant of a human being.

The Word of God tells us that Our Lord suffered – and he really did suffer. There are those who tend to minimize the sufferings of Our Lord, because "after all, he was the Son of God, and he had a ‘Divine Nature’." This is to deny one of the most central teachings of the New Testament that Jesus was truly a human being and, except for sin, he shared our human experiences in every way. In fact, as a particularly sensitive human person, it is likely that, when Our Lord suffered, his pain was more intense than that of others.

Jesus suffered obviously in his body – enduring the pain in the barbaric torture of the Roman’s design. But he must also have suffered psychologically; and this pain may have been even more intense.

Would anyone remember anything he taught or did?

In his time of need, there came a terrible loneliness. He saw his mission collapse all around him in total failure. He watched as his disciples, for the sake of their own skins, run for their lives. When he greatly needed their support, he found his disciples asleep in the garden. Even the Father seemed to be silent – the Father who could send legions of angels to rescue him – but apparently did nothing. At the end, there is the final poignant cry from the cross: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

Brothers and sisters, as each of us are able to tune in to the liturgies of Holy Week, let us reflect on the meaning of the sufferings of Our Lord. For those sufferings only have meaning because they lead to resurrection, new life and new joy. The pain and sufferings of our lives are not the punishments of God; they become, however, sources of good when they help us to become more mature, more loving, more caring, and a more sympathetic people – leading us to be more like Jesus himself; accepting Him as the One who will usher in God's promise – and we shout, *"Hosanna!" - God, come to save us!"*

**BOTTLES** and **CANS** –

Even though the Parish Hall is closed, we are still accepting donations of your bottles and cans for redemption to support our CANDLE FUND. We are also adding our POSTAGE FUND as a recipient of these donations in the event we need to make a large mailing. *In your kindness, please remember the Redemption Center does not accept bottles and cans that are not first rinsed and dry of beverage contents, Thank you for your help and cooperation*.