



SAINT *R*APHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH



UT IN OMNIBUS GLORIFICETUR DEUS – THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

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ESTABLISHED IN 1888 - NEW ENGLAND'S FIRST BENEDICTINE FOUNDATION

April 2, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of SRP:

How are you doing after almost two weeks of restricted social engagement? It's not so easy, is it? But providing a way to keep safe from infection by the novel coronavirus, slowing the spread of Covid-19 or, as they say, flattening out the curve of the infection rate, and finally providing time for our hospitals to prepare for the impending surge in seriously ill people. It surely is a time to cooperate with the directives of public health authorities and to turn to the Lord in prayer.

As we come now to rites of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter, Saint Raphael has planned several activities that we hope will interest and engage you:

- ▶ On Friday, April 3, and on Good Friday, April 10, we will film the Stations of the Cross in the main church, which, unfortunately, remains closed by order of public and ecclesiastical authority. Go to our website to download the booklet so that you can follow along.
- ▶ On Friday, April 3, we will have an hour of Adoration from 4 - 5 p.m. We will also have Adoration on Thursday, April 9 from 8 - 9 p.m.
- ▶ On Palm Sunday, April 5, the Mass will be at 9.30 a.m. (Vigil on Saturday at 4 p.m.). Unfortunately, the palms will not be available, by order of the Most Rev. Peter A. Libasci, D.D., bishop of Manchester, until after restrictions on public assembly have been lifted. Palms will be stored in a cool place, and once restrictions are lifted, they will be blessed and available to those who would like to keep a frond or two as a sacramental. **Please note: The Holy Week schedule is on the SRP website.**
- ▶ On Wednesday, April 8, we will film the Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the gospel designated for the current Year A in the three-year cycle of Scriptural readings at Sunday Mass.
- ▶ Those who "attend" weekly and Sunday Mass at SRP by way of Facebook or YouTube, may take a paperback missalette from the front porch of the rectory. There is a black piano bench next to the door, and the booklets will be inside. One missalette per family, please!
- ▶ For those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, "Confession on the Porch" will be available 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Arrive at SRP, park in the courtyard parking lot, come up to the rectory, ring the bell, then take a seat on the bench to the left of the main door. The window will be open and the pastor will hear your confession and give you absolution. Your privacy will be maintained as the shade will be drawn – and you may speak in a normal tone of voice. The secretary's office is on

the other side of the door and the windows will be closed. On Fridays, however, confessions will also be available in the church conference room on the left after entering the nave from 5 - 5:30 p.m. Enter via the side entrance by the courtyard.

► This is a good time to deepen our Catholic faith and Christian understanding by reading. Let's not waste the opportunities this time of restricted movement gives us. Parishioners and friends interested in availing of the parish library may do so by consulting a weekly e-mail that will indicate what books or videos/CDs are available for pick-up. The books will be individually packaged and available on the rectory front porch in a container. Those who take a book MUST record their name and the date on the sign-up sheet provided in the container.

► Finally, a reminder that the needs and expenses of our parish continue whether we public gatherings or not. Please remember your weekly contribution, and realize some people already are experiencing financial hardships, so perhaps a little extra generosity will strengthen our efforts to assist the parish, and those who depend upon Saint Raphael, in this time of crisis. Please use the on-line giving button on our website, mail in your envelope or simply drop an envelope off in the mail slot at the rectory.

Many thanks for your attention to this message, and please take good care of yourselves and your families. Reach out to friends, neighbors and others in ways that are prudent and safe – but good sense is a friend to charity, encouragement and prudence. Please keep all of us still working at the rectory in your prayers, and be assured that you remain in mine.

In the Lord's love,

P. Jerome, O.S.B.

Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B., Ph.D.

www.st-raphael-parish.org

