

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

A SUMMARY OF ISSUES

RELATIVE TO COVID-19

- All daily and weekend masses, along with confessions, fund-raisers, and parish activities and meetings are suspended until further notice.
- Saint Therese's Church will be open from 9:00 A.M. to Noon Monday through Friday for private prayer.
- Father Paisley will offer a *Private Mass* each day and on the weekend to fulfill the intentions as listed in the bulletin.
- Daily Mass is broadcast on CTV at 12:10 P.M., 3:30 P.M., and 7:00 P.M. The Saturday Vigil Mass is broadcast at 4P.M. and rebroadcast on Sunday at 10A.M. The Mass is also streamed on the Diocesan web www.dioceseofscranton.org Sunday mass is also broadcast on WOLF-TV at 8:00 A.M.
- For the latest information, call 570-696-1144 (Ext. 13), check our Parish Website at www.stthereses-shavertown.com, or visit our Parish Facebook Page at The Church of Saint Therese @1LittleFlower4U.

OFFICE HOURS

Although our office is not open to the public, a member of our staff will be available to answer your calls or emails from 9am to 3pm Monday through Friday.

We will be closed Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

PALM DISTRIBUTION

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and suspensions, there can be no public mass on Palm Sunday 2020.

Additionally, we have been prohibited from distributing palm in any manner whatsoever.



BLESSING OF FOOD BASKETS

We will be live-streaming the blessing prayers on Holy Saturday, April 11, at noon.

Follow the same procedure you would for viewing mass on our Facebook page.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

We will continue live-streaming mass from St. Therese's on Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

Simply visit our Parish Website at stthereses-shavertown.com and press (f) to the right of our phone number, or go to : The Church of Saint Therese@1LittleFlower4U.

Our schedule for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter is as follows:

Palm Sunday—10:00AM

Holy Thursday—7:00PM

Good Friday—2:00PM

Easter Sunday—10:00AM

***All masses and services will be live-streamed.**



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: To be considered for inclusion in the weekly bulletin, all items should be submitted by the Friday (10 days) prior to publication. Information can be mailed to St. Therese's Church, 64 Davis St., Shavertown, Pa. 18708, faxed to 570-696-1210 or **preferably** emailed to rfallon@stthereses-shavertown.com.

We are not making First Friday, Homebound, or Hospital Visits at this time, in an effort to keep everyone safe. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please keep all sick members of the parish in your prayers. For all emergency situations call 570-200-9006.



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION:

The next Baptismal Preparation Class for expectant parents will be held on Tuesday, **May 5th at 6:30pm** in the Rectory Meeting Room. Please call the rectory office to register at 570-696-1144. (PENDING)

Worship

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Father Jim will offer his private daily mass for the intentions listed here:

Mon.	Dorothy Chesko (Anniv.); Family
Wed.	Mildred Weiss; Family
Thu.	Olivia Marquart; Family
Sat.	Anna & Peter Buzink; Carol & Joe Hayer
Sun.	Barbara Manz; St. Therese's Bell Choir Allen & Anne Tillotson; Michael & Anita Tillotson Joseph Saraceno; Family

Change of Heart Tree:



The Youth Group of St. Therese will be posting a "Change of Heart" tree in the vestibule during the season of Lent. To start the season, the branches will be bare. Lenten action cards, shaped like leaves, will be available in a basket below the tree. All children of the parish are invited to take a card, perform the activity on it for the week, and return it the following week. We will then add the "leaves" to the tree. Hopefully, by the end of Lent, our tree will be in full bloom with good deeds done for Jesus by the children of our parish.

Your Financial Support is NEEDED and APPRECIATED!

While we are trying to reduce as many expenses as possible during these challenging and unprecedented days, there are certain financial responsibilities that must be maintained, i.e.: Health Insurance Premiums, Diocesan Assessments, and the like.

Please consider making whatever contribution you can afford at this time by utilizing on-line giving through your bank, mailing your offering to the rectory, or dropping it in the rectory mail slot at 64 Davis St.

All donations, regardless of size, are deeply appreciated. Know that I am most grateful for your personal and financial support as we journey through this global pandemic.

**Sincerely,
Father Jim**

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH MARCH 2020—MARCH 2021

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of Pope Pius IX's decree naming Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus, as the Patron of the Universal Church.

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has declared this year as a "Year of Saint Joseph" to be observed in the Diocese of Scranton from March 19, 2020 to March 19, 2021.

Bishop Bambera invites all of the faithful to renew their devotion to Saint Joseph during this commemorative year, and to seek his powerful intercession to safely guard the Church from all evils, just as he protected the Holy Family from harm.

Mount Olivet Cemetery in Carverton is looking to hire part time, summer help to cut and trim grass. Pay rate is \$8.00 per hour, and you must be at least 18 years of age. This is an ideal position for students looking for a summer work opportunity. Please call the cemetery at 570-696-3636 for more information or to apply.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sadly, and due to the pandemic, the cherished Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter – Palm Sunday, the Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, the Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Sunday Masses – will all be celebrated privately, without all of you, the blessed faithful who make up the Diocese of Scranton – filling our churches as you have always done during these most sacred days. The Chrism Mass will be deferred to a later date when the current health crisis has passed.

While this ongoing pandemic is calling us to be socially distant from one another, it does not mean we need to be spiritually distant. I invite you and your family to join me in prayer as we renew our efforts to turn to the Lord. While not open to the public, all of our Holy Week liturgies at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton will be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television and live-streamed on the Diocese of Scranton’s website and social media platforms. Many parishes will also plan to broadcast their own Masses.

As we seek to come to terms with this latest casualty of the coronavirus, I want to share with you a recent encouraging directive of the Holy See regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation, firmly rooted in the traditions of our Church. With the increasing difficulty for individuals to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation due to the current health crisis, the faithful are reminded that by having perfect contrition, one can receive the forgiveness of sins apart from going to confession. Perfect contrition requires the following three things: a love of God above all else; a sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin; and the resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides. Please take consolation in knowing that while you may not have access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the power and love of God is far greater than we can imagine. For all who sincerely express contrition, your sins are forgiven.

In the midst of this crisis, so many of you are responding generously and courageously to the Gospel invitation to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, sacrificing our own well-being and serving selflessly the lives that God places in our own.

May God continue to bless you and your family and keep you safe.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton

