

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“Isolated. Anxious. Uncertain.

Those are feelings we are all too familiar with in the midst of this Covid-19 crisis.

Many of us are sat behind closed doors, wondering what is the future going to look like.

This Lent has been unlike anything we have experienced. On Ash Wednesday, ashes were placed on our heads, and we heard the words: “Remember you are dust, and unto dust you shall return” or “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.”

That happened on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Light years ago. Who would have thought that we would be where we are now.

Back in February, we were speaking of an epidemic (certainly not a pandemic) in some remote place in China. Nothing to do with us. Hope they sort it out. We’ll say a prayer for them. Doesn’t really concern me.

Without one word being spoken, the whole world changed.

What we did on Ash Wednesday has a different meaning for us now.

Maybe we received ashes without giving it too much thought.

Suddenly we are aware that we are fragile, mortal, dust. We are terrified to catch the Virus. We are suddenly looking for answers, not only is science and the labs, but also asking questions of God. How could he let this happen? What kind of a God would do this? Are we being punished?

Isolated. Anxious. Uncertain.

If that’s the way you are feeling you’re in good company.

*“The very first Easter, that’s how the Disciples felt. They were isolated, anxious, uncertain about the future. They were sitting behind locked doors wondering what was going to happen next. Then all of a sudden, out of nowhere, Hope broke into the room. Easter is the experience of Hope in the face of anxiety and uncertainty. That same Hope which the Disciples experienced that first Easter can be experienced by us today”.*

Those are the words of Pastor Matt, of the Bethlehem Church in Ridgewood. He hit the nail on the head.

This Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus entering into Jerusalem accompanied by crowds of people. It introduces the Holy week liturgies, when we usually gather as a community to celebrate the Lords Passion, Death and Resurrection. Everybody and their uncle usually show up for Palm Sunday.

Not this year.

This Palm Sunday we will be alone. No crowds, no community, no throngs of people.

And yet, this whole experience can be an immense blessing for us.

Our fear, uncertainty, and anxiety may be real.

But more certain is the fact that Christ has overcome all of our fears and worries and doubts.

Please join us on our Parish Facebook page for the live-streamed Palm Sunday Mass, either Saturday at 5:30pm, or Sunday at 8:30am or 10:30am

After the 10:30am Sunday Mass Palms will be available for drive-thru pick up in the Church parking lot.

I never speak about money, but to make this a truly Catholic celebration, there will also be a basket in the parking lot for you to place your offering.

Fr. Sean