



CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
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LETTER FROM THE RESURRECTION PARISH COUNCIL

April 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners of the Church of the Resurrection:

We, the members of the Resurrection Parish Council, recognize that the past month and a half has been anything but normal for our local community. We know that many of the members of Resurrection are suffering due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Because of this situation and the need for self-distancing, our regular Mass schedule was suspended and our Holy Week and Easter celebrations could not be held in the normal manner. However, we hope that those of you with internet access have been able to take the opportunity to view our parish website. Father Barry and his staff have made videos of the main liturgies for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday and this Sunday. A pre-taped Sunday Mass will be a regular presence on the parish website. Masses are sent to the Riderwood community for their campus TV; for a Sunday 11 a.m. Mass. There are also several other videos that Father Barry has posted, which he hopes will assist you spiritually during this difficult period. If you cannot access the website; then the clergy can send you, by request, some mailings to comfort your spirit.

In addition to the above actions and in an effort to spiritually support the Resurrection Community, Clergy and Staff have done the following:

- Opened a 24/7 visitation of our Tabernacle via the window on the Greencastle Road side of the building. The Tabernacle will remain there indefinitely.
- Sent communication emails to parishioners with known email addresses.
- Began a communication and support campaign by calling parishioners via known telephone numbers.
- Sent a special mailing during Holy Week to parishioners with known addresses.
- Continued to provide support services such as offering spiritual counseling and conducting funerals within the guidelines established by Archbishop Gregory and the Archdiocese of Washington.
- Established a You Tube Channel for Resurrection where all Resurrection videos are posted.
- Continued to hold choir rehearsals via Zoom with a small portion of the choir singing at the videotaped liturgies.
- Continue to provide to those in need from the food pantry.
- Held the monthly Parish Council meeting via Zoom.

“Resurrexit, sicut dixit, Alleluia!”

In a continuing effort to provide spiritual support to our parish community, Resurrection will be doing the following:

- Offering confessions by appointment by calling for a time slot on Father Barry's direct office number of 301-288-4662.
- Holding a parish parking lot drive-in **Eucharistic Adoration** on Friday, May 1 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Parishioners and others may pull into the side parking lot (Greencastle Road) and point their vehicles towards the viewing window. It is well-lit for notice. The Monstrance of the Lord in Eucharist will be placed in the 24/7 Tabernacle window.
- Coinciding with the Eucharistic Adoration (4:00pm – 8:00pm), there will be two stations for drive-up Confessions. For both stations, enter at the Old Columbia Pike entrance.
 - Station A: Will be by the steps in the front of the church.
 - Station B: Will be in the drop off lane at the Amadeo Room Hall entrance. The vehicle direction is going downhill, with the driver side to the sidewalk.
- Positioning a statue of Mary in the same Tabernacle window for the month of May for visitation and prayer. Flowers may be left at a designated area in front of the window.
- Fathers Barry, Niba and Osuagwu continue to work, including a daily liturgy for us all. Contact Kathy Ford (301- 236-5202 or kford@resurrectionadw.org) to relay a message to them or you may contact Father Barry directly (301-288-4662 or frjbarry@resurrectionadw.org).

In this letter, we have provided you with items that the parish has done and is currently doing. Now we ask for your assistance on what we think is a special project! We would like to create a parish directory with photographs of our parishioners and their families. This is your task: send Kathy (kford@resurrectionadw.org) a picture of you and your immediate family. In the email, be sure to include your last name and the names of those in the picture starting left to right. The pictures will be printed out and placed in a binder alphabetically.

This directory will be for clergy and parish staff use. However, if you would like a copy, please let Kathy know. There will be a fee for the directory which will be determined later. Not only will pictures be used as a directory, but staff will place the photos in the pews for clergy to look at while praying the taped liturgies. It will be as if you are right there with them.

Resurrection Parish is our home and serves as a refuge, especially in these uncertain times. While we are prevented from our holding regular liturgies, pastoral service and communal gatherings, our clergy continues to provide pastoral care and support. This includes funerals, private daily Masses, praying of the "Hours" and intersessions for you and social distancing house calls. Just recently, the clergy has been taking turns taping a daily message for you so be sure to visit the parish website. They are also in the process of preparing an online Bible study.

We are so thankful to those of you who have continued to contribute to the parish financially during this uncertain time. It is very much appreciated as there are still regular monthly bills to be paid. Mindful that Archbishop Gregory just sent a letter on giving, which was the topic on our minds when we met with Father Barry.

Below are reminders of how contributions may be made to the parish during this time.

- Electronic giving: Contact Gwen Wilhelm at 301 236-5203 or via email at gwilhelm@resurrectionadw.org to set that up or make changes.
- Mailing your weekly envelopes to 3315 Greencastle Road. Burtonsville, MD 20866.
- Dropping off your weekly envelopes by slipping them through the locked doors of the second door of the office entryway.
- Going on to the top right side of the parish website home page (www.resurrectionadw.org), click the red button and donate via your credit card.

Despite the circumstances we find ourselves in, we need to try to continue to live our Christian Faith. As Father Barry recently wrote in his mailing, "We are in this pandemic together. We are a community of faith centered persons on the Eucharist and with hearts committed to living the kingdom of God and in bringing Jesus out to others."

With God's help, our country will come through this crisis. May God bless all of you and keep you safe. Thank you for your support.

Yours in Christ,

The Church of the Resurrection Parish Council

John Laudwein, Council Chair

Brian McCagh

Linda-Marie Stempihar, Council Secretary

Chuka Ndubizu

Edward Ayuk

Charity Nwaneri

Dany Burns

Tina Peachman

Christopher Coker

Pat Ryan

Sally Curley

Toni Wohleber

Donald Lazas, Riderwood Representative