Dear Friends in Christ:

The idea of celebrating the liturgies of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter with no congregation is so strange. These rituals open to us some of the most essential elements of our faith- the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. These annual celebrations speak to us, communicate to us, the love that God has for us and the length to which He goes to invite us and make it possible for us to share his Divine life, both in this world and in the life to come. It is an honor to lead the congregation through these liturgies, to preside as we recall the saving mysteries of Christ, to preach the good news of salvation. It will be strange…

The good news of the moment is that, thanks to the newly minted technoratti on our staff, will be live-streaming the Holy Week liturgies. They can be accessed on our parish FaceBook page or, I think, YouTube for the re-runs!

I invite you to participate in these liturgies in your homes – make the response to, “The Lord be with you,” and even try standing, sitting, or, if you are able, kneeling at the proper times. (Good stretching if, like me, you are missing going to the gym.) Although we are not joined in one location, we are joined in one faith by the power of the Holy Spirit.

One of the struggles we’re beginning to face is **“Quarantine Fatigue.”** The weather has been pleasant, we miss being with our friends, we’re tired of not meeting up for a basketball game, a few hands of bridge, or just an evening spent with neighbors on the dock. It was, in some ways, kinda fun to practice physical distancing – at first. And none of us even look twice anymore at a person in the grocery store who is wearing a face mask.

As the days and weeks pass, though, we get antsy. We can drop our guard and stop washing our hands. “Maybe it’s OK to have just a few friends over – after all, no one we know has tested positive.” Don’t do it. All of us together have to be strong in our resolve here. Knowing that schools are out until April 27th at the earliest – that date can change due to circumstances – can seem too oppressive. But, we have to, dare I say it, endure. Right now the best “fix” we have to bring this tough episode to a close is staying home.

I’m so grateful to the teachers and administration at our school who have stepped up their game. Working from their classrooms or from home, they are helping our children to stay in touch with their educations. It’s by no means ideal, but under difficult circumstances, they are doing an incredible job.

As always, if you can make your contributions to our parish through the mail, through your bank, or online that would be very helpful. We do need your continued financial support.

And, as always, if anyone has any particular needs, we’ve had a number of people offer their time and talent and treasure to support you. Please send me an email or leave a message at the office.

FORMED is an online resource for everyone can use. It offers Catholic videos movies, eBooks, and more. Just go to [www.myspa.formed.org](http://www.myspa.formed.org) and find out what is offered.

We offer our thanks to and keep in our prayers the medical professionals, the first responders, and the often time overlooked folks who stock the grocery shelves, drive the delivery trucks, clean the hospital rooms, or provide so many other services that go on, even in the time of pandemic.

And we look forward to having a heckuva celebration together once this thing is over. We’ll be rolling St. Patrick’s Day, Easter, Graduation, April Fool’s Day, Passover and Easter Sunday, Arbor Day, Cinco de Mayo, and maybe even Mother’s Day into one massive event. I think we better plan for that around, well, Thanksgiving!

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Michael J. Kavanaugh
Pastor