

Our Lady of the Ridge

Dear Parishioners,

We are in a time of confusion, a time of disbelief and emotional shock. What is going to happen next? What does all this mean? These are just two questions among many with very little or no answers. We enter into another week of this global crisis when this Coronavirus has struck our **WHOLE WORLD**. Not just in certain places, but it has aggressively hit everywhere and everyone. We have never experienced this scenario in our lifetimes and we hope we will never see it again. Our world has come into a complete **STOP** and so have our lives.

Since Churches have been closed until further notice because of this global public health emergency, I want you to know that as I say Mass to an empty Church I pray for all of you, those affected with the virus, those who have died, our government leaders, healthcare workers, police, firefighters, military, and all those working on the frontlines and the **WHOLE WORLD**.

At this time, we all need to turn to God in prayer and to reach out to others. It is important to reach out to our neighbors during this bleak and troubling time to show our concern and to help wherever we can or just to let them know we are thinking of them. Your acts of kindness will inspire others and will bring about a positive and supportive response to those in need. It will also help with the loneliness and fear and hopefully provide a little calm into their lives.

As you all know, all of Holy Week has been canceled. I invite you to watch the services on TV, computers or phones either streamed from the Archdiocese, EWTN or FaceTime. I have been invited to celebrate Easter Mass at St. Linus at 10:00 a.m. where they will live stream the service from their Parish. I am thinking of having a **DRIVE-THRU** on Palm Sunday for people to pick up blessed palms from 10 to 11 a.m. in front of the Church. Even though Easter Services and celebrations will not be happening, we **ALL** must celebrate in our own ways knowing that Our Lord, Jesus Christ has risen and is with us especially during this crisis. Let us celebrate His Resurrection and express ourselves as God's people in a way that keeps us together as one community.

One way we can do this is to pray together and I invite you all to take a half hour each day to pray for each other and our world. I will be doing this every night from 9 to 9:30 p.m. just before bedtime. Please do the same and join me. As it says in a preface for funerals, "Life is changed, not ended." Let us remember this **ALWAYS**. Our lives will never be the same after this pandemic. We must not let the darkness of this time overwhelm us but instead use this time to reach out in love, compassion and prayer. "The Light of Christ will win!"

Prayers for all!
Fr. Wayne and Daisy