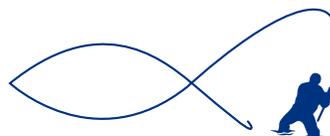


Matt. 4:19



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# ST PETER THE FISHERMAN

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ST. MICHAEL - HOLY NAME OF JESUS - SACRED HEART - ST. TIMOTHY  
CHERRYFIELD MACHIAS LUBEC CAMPOBELLO ISLAND

March 28, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I know that you all probably have questions regarding Holy Week. My approach since the announcement to suspend Masses was made by the bishop was to take advantage of the time and remain in quiet prayer about this current situation and our immediate circumstances. This time also gave the chancery an opportunity to get together with Bishop Deeley to come up with directives for daily, Sunday, and Holy Week liturgies. I am writing this today to address our circumstances after receiving direction from the bishop's office regarding Holy Week.

As of today the bishop has decreed to keep all churches closed and to not allow public celebration of the Holy Week liturgies. He has canceled the Chrism Mass and The Light Is On For You confessions and is not allowing the distribution of palms. Unfortunately this leaves nothing for communal liturgical celebrations during the most solemn week of our liturgical year. Thankfully, the chancery and cathedral staff, as well as many other parishes in our diocese were able to start offering live streamed Masses daily and on Sunday, a technological feat our parish has not taken to task.

Since we are not already set up for live streaming, and since there are multiple opportunities for the faithful to live stream Sunday Mass as well as the Holy Week liturgies on EWTN, the Cathedral in Portland, and in multiple parishes in our dioceses who already offer a live streamed Mass, I am choosing not to pursue doing that in our parish. The bishop's expectation for parishes that are not live streaming Masses and Holy Week liturgies is for the pastor to celebrate them privately. One directive says that the Easter Vigil is only to be celebrated in parishes that can live stream it. Therefore, my agenda includes private celebrations of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper (extremely abbreviated), and Good Friday. As noted above, there will be no Easter Vigil but a private Easter Sunday Mass unless things change before then. This disturbs me on multiple levels, especially since I've been fully involved in celebrating these liturgies for the last twelve years. I pray we never have to be in this position again in the future, and I hope others are taking this problem to task in their prayers as well. While this is disappointing, I know, this is the current plan for Holy Week. Pray it doesn't last longer than that.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Philip Clement". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Philip Clement, Pastor