



**Fr. Joe's Update**  
**April 1, 2020**  
**The Basilica of St. Stanislaus**  
**Chicopee**

*Pope Francis Prayer to Mary During the Corona Virus Pandemic*

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

*An Act of Spiritual Communion*

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.

May the Peace of Christ reign in your hearts. As you know, we are in “stay home” mode until at least May 4. Let's all take a deep breath. Let not our fears, anxieties, impatience get in the way of making use of this very real DESERT OF LENT....Jesus is with us !!! Please tune in for our Sunday Mass at 9:00 A.M. via our web site([www.ststansbasilica.com](http://www.ststansbasilica.com) and Facebook) Again, I am so grateful to Fr. Chris Dudek, who with us since he cannot return to Baltimore (School is closed, etc.) and our web site manager Krystian Jurkowski, for making this live streaming possible. We will live stream Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 P.M., Good Friday Passion Service at 3:00 P.M., Easter Vigil (Saturday April 11) at 7:00 P.M., and Easter Sunday Mass at 9:00 A.M. Use the ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION ABOVE since you cannot be at the altar for Holy Eucharist. Jesus will truly be with you. Many have asked and called about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please read the following from the Committee on Divine Worship from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops:

I might add that when it is not possible to administer the Sacrament, then what the Apostolic Penitentiary said about the Sacrament of Penance might be applied analogously to the Sacrament of the Sick: **“Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by *votum confessionis*, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452).”** (Committee on Divine Worship, USCCB)

Never forget in the Power and Reality of Jesus DIVINE MERCY. At this time, we are not permitted to go out for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. It is temporarily suspended. Again, be patient. Pray at home. Pray as a family. I have been posting the Sunday Readings and a Homily for you on the web site.

Just as many of you have financial concerns, so do I. I must pay the Basilica bills. Please mail in or drop off your envelopes/contributions. We have a new mail slot on the Parish Office (front porch). Some weekly bulletins are also there for your taking. Thank You to so many of you who have sent in your envelopes/contributions. God reward your stewardship. Needless to say, we are struggling, like many of you. NO regular collections and NO Bingo is a major problem. We are paying our Parish Staff and School Faculty and Staff. I ask all of you to do what you can to support the Basilica now and in the days ahead. Thank you and bless you!

**Although we cannot host a pick-up on the parking lot, I plan to bless the PALMS at Mass on Palm Sunday, then place a box of blessed palms on the Parish Office front porch and a box on the Friary-side entrance of the Basilica for your taking. Please take only one per family so there are enough palms for all.** YES, please take one for those who are homebound. More palms will be available in the Basilica once we return to public Masses. Be conscious of Social Distancing when dropping off contributions or picking up the palms. We must all observe the health directives.

Again, for *Swienconka*, remember to use the BLESSINGS in English and Polish, that we've placed on the website. Your prayer and blessing at home will be a very special time for your family!

I miss seeing you all, talking, joking, and especially Praying with you at the Altar. WE are united in spirit and through our prayer. There is a church song that goes: "IF God is for us, who can be against us." St. Paul also says: "Nothing can separate us from the Love of God, that comes to us in Christ Jesus."

"In His courtesy and good pleasure, God can banish the darkness and give us His wonder-working light."

(St. Bonaventure's Major Life of Francis, 5:12)

"Servant of God, if you apply yourself to acquiring and persevering, both in heart and demeanor, that joy which comes from a pure heart and is won by devotion to prayer, the devils can do you no harm. They say: "This servant of God is as happy when things are going badly as when all is well, and so we cannot find an opening to enter him and hurt him." (The Mirror of Perfection of Francis, 95)

Blessings and Peace,

***Friar Joe Bayne, OFM Conv.***