

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Wednesday, April 1, 2020



Dear Parishioners:

**Daily Readings:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Psalm (Dt 3:52 - 56) Jn 8:31-42

Yes, I know. It's April Fool's day. Fool everyone and stay home!

Have you ever tried to reason with a child? It's more of an argument than a reasoning. The child knows what he/she thinks and wants and then expects everyone else to follow. What we'd like to think is a teachable moment to the youngster becomes an exercise in frustration on the part of the adult. How many times does it happen that when the kid doesn't get his/her way he/she storms off, or bursts into tears, or says hurtful things but just - won't - listen? That probably happens more often than we'd like. Read today's Scriptures. That's pretty much what's going on. The three young men simply would not listen to the king and the king sent them to a "time out" but did that king ever get a surprise. It turns out he was wrong and the young men were right because they weren't the ones acting like a child. Now Jesus, on the other hand, is talking with people *who believed in Him* and yet still He couldn't get the message He was trying to teach through their thick skulls. I can almost imagine His frustration, realize He's getting nowhere, closes His eyes, shakes his head, takes a deep breath and finally admits He's done what He could and gives up. After all, it's up to His listeners to decide for themselves what they're going to do. We act like that all the time with the Lord, don't we? We know what's right but we choose not to do it and follow our own path. What happens when we refuse to listen to the Lord, follow our own path, and worship at altars to false gods? Come on! You're a smart person. Figure it out for yourself.

**PALM SUNDAY IS THIS COMING SUNDAY.** Now, listen carefully. Please. This is how we're going to do it. The one and only Mass for Palm Sunday will be **live-streamed** at **10:00 a.m.** on our parish You Tube Channel (links for all of the Holy Week liturgies will be posted on our parish website's "Liturgy" page). Palms will be blessed at that Mass and then **after Mass (approximately 11:00 a.m.) palms will be placed on the front patio of the church and parishioners can come by any time on Sunday until 5:00 p.m to pick up some blessed palms. Drive onto the property. Park the car. Turn off the engine. Get out of the car. Get your palm. Get back into your car. Start your car. Return home.** Also, please don't treat the palms like toilet paper, i.e., don't hoard them. Take only a few strips not a whole handful. Leave some for others. Blessed palms will be left in the vestibule of the church through Wednesday for those who can't pick them up on Sunday. Palms are a reminder of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem and our commitment to follow Him as Messiah and King. *They are not magical good luck charms to protect us from evil or bad things happening to us.*

**Question:** Why can't we have drive through confessions?

**Answer:** Seriously? What is the priest supposed to do; stand six feet away and have the penitents shout their sins at him? Just make an Act of Contrition (see yesterday's message) and then go to confession the next time you have the opportunity.

**Question:** Why can't we have drive through communion?

**Answer** (following a perplexed "Are they serious?" look): First of all, the Church isn't like a fast food Drive-through! Secondly, a person who is ill and can't otherwise get to Mass is the only one who can receive the Eucharist outside of Mass. After all, one receives Holy Communion as the culmination of the sacred liturgy when we come together to give praise and thanksgiving to God. The Eucharist is not only for our person sanctification and unity with the Lord, but it is the sign of our unity in the Church; hence communion, from the Latin cum-unio, union with.

**A Bit of Humor** (as if the above isn't enough!): One good thing about the "stay home!" order (for those that are responsible and do it) is that the whole country should finally realize that we can survive in a world without celebrities and professional sports.

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