March 31, 2020

To the Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,

Lent 2020 will go down in history as one of our most memorable. It truly has been an unprecedented time for all of us. It is in that context that I write to you today. Because things have been so different, there can be a subtle tendency to grow lax in our practices of faith. It is important for us to always remember that our God is unchanging. Though our faith may waver, He never will. He is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer (Psalm 18).

Though these are unprecedented times for us, they are not unprecedented in the history of our Church. There have been times far worse than this and the Church always has emerged triumphant. I want to invite us all to stand in this confidence, especially as we enter this solemn and holy week before us. I invite you to engage in this sacred time with a prayerfulness and attentiveness like you never have before.

On Palm Sunday, April 5th, I am calling the archdiocese to prayer with me to begin Holy Week 2020. We will offer an online live-stream event at 3:00pm that day. If you are not able to join at that time, you can view the recorded version with your family or a small group at any time throughout the rest of the day or evening. Let’s begin Holy Week together, joined in prayer and in spirit, praying for each other, praying for our archdiocese, our country, and our world. See the graphic below for more information about the event.
In preparation for Holy Week, I want to point you to a number of resources that may be helpful to you and your family to prayerfully enter into the various liturgies at your parish.

The Vatican distributed information to every diocese with special direction on navigating Holy Week this year, given our unique circumstances. I have communicated that information to all of our priests throughout the archdiocese. Our staff has prepared a version of that information for all the lay faithful that you can find here: archokc.org/digitalresources.

Holy Week Liturgies – Adaptations of the Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday Rituals for Family and Household Prayer by Liturgical Publications are available here: archokc.org/digitalresources.

MAGNIFICAT is providing complimentary access to their online versions to help people pray from home:
English: magnificat.com/free
Spanish: magnificat.com/gratis
Magnifikid!: magnifikid.com/free

Find the latest communications from me and the chancery staff, information on online giving for your parish, a list of online Masses, and other prayer resources at archokc.org/health. Please check your parish website and social media for further opportunities.

Know that you are in my prayers in a special way. I hope that you will be able to join me in prayer this Sunday as we celebrate Palm Sunday and begin this holiest of weeks!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City