

# Special Newsletter



*Holy Week—April 5-11, 2020*

During this time while we are not able to connect physically with one another, we want to use this weekly newsletter as one forum to reach out to our families. Please do let us know if you have any concerns that others may be able to assist.

*Jennifer Beller had planned on putting a note in this week's Newsletter, but she's been having trouble getting an internet connection. She continues to have meetings with State officials, Diocesan officials, etc. As we have updated information, we will be sending it out. Till then be safe, taking care of each other during this week that as Christians we know it as "Holy Week". I think it's safe to say that this will be a very unusual week for all of us! Bishop Peter will be offering Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter services online at: <https://www.catholicidaho.org/>*

## ***WELCOME to two new baby boys:***

Born to Melissa and Dan Neighbors on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Charles Benjamin

and to

One of our Spanish Teachers, Lilia A'Hearn her son, Owen Patrick

Congratulations to you both and many blessings on you and your families!



## **Some Ideas for Family Resources for Holy Week:**

**Bayard faith Resources at home:** invites you and your family to receive complimentary resources from some of the most trusted Catholic authors, editors, educators and illustrators, designed to help you at home as you deal with the COVID-19 crisis for Holy Week: put the following in your web browser to sign-up: <https://mailchi.mp/bayard-inc/your-free-at-home-resources-for-palm-sunday-805249?e=02c044311d> The resources at this site are for: Mass of the Day, Liturgy of the Word for Children, Daily Devotions, Activities for Kids of all ages, and music and videos.

Since we can't do our annual "*Holy Week Retreat*" on Holy Thursday this week, there are some "tools", "activities" and "ideas" to assist you at this site entitled *Look to Him and Be Radiant*. Parent, Joy Newlan (thank you for sharing this site, Joy) came across this site: <https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2020/03/holy-week-at-home-editable-schedule-and.html>

### **Some activities for families:**

1. **Keep a "gratitude board"** ---each person in the family writes one thing they are grateful for daily.
2. **The following was originally given at a Religious Education Congress by a parent who told us how powerful this simple ritual was for his family.** Gather daily in the evening before all go to bed. Gather with an object (cross, rock, picture, etc.) that will be passed to each one. This object allows the person holding it to speak. While the individual is speaking the others listen with no

joking, comments or asking questions. Each one in the family participates, no one can choose not to answer. There are two questions. The first question for the first round is: *What am I most sorry for that happened to me today?* After each one in the circle responds to this question the second round begins with the question: *What am I most grateful that happened to me today?* After all have finished, one parent prays words like the following: “*God we are sorry for the things that we’ve done today. We ask Your forgiveness and healing.*” The other parent then would pray: “*God we are very grateful for the good things that have happened to each of us today. We ask You to bless each of us and may we have a good nights sleep. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*” And then the parents bless each other and each child.

3. Other suggestions? Please send us your ideas.

**Sign-up for St. Mary’s Parish Bulletin:** if you are not already signed up for Flocknote for the parish, here is how to do it. You can do this by going to the church’s website [stmarysparishmoscow.org](http://stmarysparishmoscow.org) Then click on the blue sheep (Parish Notification) and sign up. It is easy and **important**.

**Check out this Sunday’s Bulletin for Palm Sunday at:**

[6570075.hf375r4gyrdr22qt1vlkfm7ub570px7zuz92jao1tulcacr3d@reply.flocknote.com](mailto:6570075.hf375r4gyrdr22qt1vlkfm7ub570px7zuz92jao1tulcacr3d@reply.flocknote.com)

#### **A Prayer for Hope and Peace:**

Heavenly father, I am your humble servant,

I come before you today in need of hope.

I need hope for a calm and joyful future.

I need hope for love and kindness.

I pray for peace and safety.

Some say that the sky is at its  
darkest just before the light.

I pray that this is true, for today seems stormy and dim.

I need your light, Lord, in every way.

I pray to be filled with your light.

Help me to walk in your light, and live  
my life in faith and service.

In your name I pray, Amen.

## **Reflection for Holy Week**

**The Lamb of God:** we know Jesus took away sin by absorbing and transforming sin. How? Perhaps an image might be helpful: Jesus took away our sins in the same way a filter purifies water. A filter takes in impure water, holds the impurities inside of itself, and gives back only the pure water. It transforms rather transmits. We see this in Jesus. Like the ultimate cleansing filter, he purifies life itself.

He takes in hatred, holds it, transforms it, and gives back love;

He takes in chaos, holds it, transforms it, and gives back order;

He takes in fear, holds it, transforms it, and gives back freedom;

He takes in jealousy, holds it, transforms it, and gives back affirmation;

He takes in Satan and [sin], holds them, transforms them, and gives back only God and forgiveness.

And, in doing this, Jesus doesn’t want admirers, but *followers*. The Garden of Gethsemane invites us, everyone of us, to step in, and to step-up. It invites us to sweat a lover’s blood so as to help absorb, purify, and transform tension and sin rather than simply transmit them. (From the booklet, “Daybreaks” pg. 42 by Msgr. Ronald

Rolheiser, omi

