

Dear Parish and School Leaders,

In this time when we seem to have caught up on the various issues requiring immediate guidance/response, please see below for a listing of a number of updates re: the Church's response to COVID-19 and efforts by the Archbishop to communicate this Holy Week:

- 1) The Archbishop's Easter Sunday Mass from Cathedral of Mary Our Queen will air live at 12Noon on WBAL-TV, Ch. 11, in addition to being livestreamed on the web. The Masses of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil will be livestreamed only. People may be referred to this page for more information: <https://www.archbalt.org/archbishop-loris-holy-week-liturgies-to-be-livestreamed/>.
- 2) WBAL-TV will do two live interviews via Skype with Msgr. Rick Hilgartner on Easter morning, at 7:15 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.
- 3) WJZ-TV is scheduled to film a segment Thursday on the impact of the COVID-19 virus on funerals and will interview Fr. Patrick Carrion about the challenges posed to families and to priests. Having recently lost his own brother, Father Carrion will offer a unique perspective from both viewpoints.
- 4) The Baltimore Sun is interviewing priest-chaplains about the Sacrament of the Sick and the specific challenges of anointing a patient who is dying of COVID-19. We are working with them to offer priests to speak about this topic, which was the subject of a recent reflection by Father Larry Johnson.
- 5) Tomorrow, Archbishop Lori will bless University of Maryland Medical Center, Bishop Madden will bless Johns Hopkins Hospital and Bishop Parker will bless Mercy Medical Center—all at 11 a.m. as a demonstration of prayer and support for those who are caring for the sick and for all who are patients in our healthcare facilities.
- 6) Today, Archbishop Lori was interviewed by WBAL-AM, WBAL-TV, WJZ-TV, The Catholic Review and Crux about the challenges the Church is facing this Holy Week and how parishes are working to bring the Church to the people.
- 7) Here is the latest video featuring a message from some of our priests and our bishops to the Faithful this Holy Week: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDDgEIY8F8I>
- 8) Here are two video messages from the Archbishop to: Candidates & Catechumens (<https://youtu.be/yWs5KKsyNsA>) and Confirmation Candidates (<https://youtu.be/7K3BMIGkY3k>). These will be shared with the DRE's and various ministry groups from the Dept. of Evangelization. Feel free to share these with those from your parishes who were preparing to enter the Church and to be Confirmed.
- 9) Our Social Media Editor created a series of AOB-related "backgrounds" that can be used as backdrops for your Zoom meetings, etc. These can be found at Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ArchBalt/posts/10157010780186961> and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/archbalt/status/1247612753495408642>.
- 10) The Catholic Review featured this story on efforts to assist parishes weather the financial crisis: <https://www.archbalt.org/archdiocese-provides-financial-relief-to-parishes-and-schools-in-wake-of-pandemic/>. The Baltimore Business Journal published a less comprehensive story here: <https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2020/04/06/archdiocese-of-baltimore-takes-1-5m-loan-to.html>. The Review continues to be the best source for information about the Church's response to the COVID-19 crisis. www.catholicreview.org

Thank you, and have a safe and blessed Triduum!