



Schedule of Offerings

*All virtual offerings are accessible via this Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/7774467747>
When joining our Zoom virtual events, please disable your video and audio/microphone.*

Sunday, April 5, 10:30 AM: Join us for **Palm Sunday Mass** (via Zoom)- Rev. William F. Platt

Monday, April 6, 7:30 PM: Join us for the **Rosary** (via Zoom) - Lori Wilson, *Pastoral Associate*

Tuesday, April 7, Reflection: **Going out Into the Desert**, by Tom Gallagher

It's ironic that the pandemic-induced shelter-in-place restriction arrived in the middle of Lent, a time when we Christians commemorate Jesus' 40-days in the desert. No doubt Jesus experienced loneliness, aloneness and temptation. For elderly shut-ins, home confinement is a way of life and is often lonely.

Is there an alternative way to approach this period of self-distancing?

In the 4th and 5th centuries, Christian hermits – “Abbas” and “Ammas” – fathers and mothers, went out into the Egyptian desert not to flee the cities and towns in order to be alone. No. They withdrew into the desert in order to fight the demons of society and to encounter the God of love in the desert. They wanted a new way of living in closeness to God, one that was necessarily a slow process of a total transformation.

Amma Syncletica said, “In the beginning, there is a struggle and a lot of work for those who come near to God. But after that, there is indescribable joy. It is just like building a fire: at first it's smoky and your eyes water, but later you get the desired result. Thus we ought to light the divine fire in ourselves with tears and effort.”⁽¹⁾ For the desert fathers and mothers, once firmly planted in the love of God were able to go out to serve their neighbors. The ancient wisdom of the desert is as life-giving today as it was then and offers a hopeful way forward in our own time and in our own homes.

(1) Desert Wisdom: Sayings from the Desert Fathers, by Yushi Nomura, with introduction by Henri J.M. Nouwen (Doubleday & Company, Inc., New York, 1982)

Wednesday, April 8, 1:30 PM: - Join us for **Mass** (via Zoom) - Rev. Mark D'Silva



Thursday, April 9, 8:00 PM: **Mass of the Lord's Supper** (via Zoom) - Rev. William F. Platt

Friday, April 10: Join us on **Good Friday**

3:00 PM - **Celebration of the Passion of the Lord** (via Zoom) - Rev. Mark D'Silva

7:30 PM - **Stations of the Cross** (via Zoom) - Lori Wilson, *Pastoral Associate*

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 PM: Join us for the **Easter Vigil** (via Zoom) - Rev. William F. Platt

Sunday, April 12, 10:30 AM: Join us for **Easter Mass** (via Zoom) - Re. Mark D'Silva

*The Clergy and Staff at The Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes
wish you and your families a Blessed Easter!*

