

St. Patrick's Newsletter

March 19, 2020

(Underlined text is linked to websites for your convenience.)



Fr. Joe and the staff at St. Patrick's hope that you are all healthy and safe. Though the Church and parish offices are closed to non-staff until further notice, Fr. Joe wishes you all a special blessing on this **Feast of St. Joseph**, especially to all Josephs & Josephinas. The Pope is asking us to all say a rosary at 9:00 p.m. tonight, St. Joseph's Day for the intercession of St. Joseph in this pandemic. Let us all join together in prayer... OREMUS!!

Worship Opportunities: You can listen to Fr. Joe's and Kathleen's two celebrations of Sunday Scriptures on [96.7 fm 3WZ](http://96.7fm3WZ) radio which also can be live streamed on your computer and smartphone at 3wzfm.com/. Kindle My Fire with Kathleen Nowacki-Correia airs Sundays at 8:30 a.m., and Fr. Joe's program airs at 10 a.m. These programs present two Catholic opportunities to hear God's Word on Sunday mornings. Weekly Sunday Mass is also available online at adw.org/tvmass and ewtn.com/tv/watch-live/united-states.

Scripture Readings for this weekend: March 22: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7,10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41. March 29: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45.

From the Director of Religious Education, Kathleen Nowacki-Correia:

"Live as children of light."

In today's second reading, St. Paul reminds the Ephesians that, through their Baptism, they have emerged from the darkness of sin to "live as children of light" — to see the world differently in the light of Christ. The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** teaches that "Baptism is called 'enlightenment,' because those who receive this catechetical instruction are enlightened in their understanding. Having received in Baptism the Word, 'the true light that enlightens every man,' the person baptized has been 'enlightened' and he becomes a 'son of light.' Indeed, he becomes 'light' himself (#1216)." May we, who have been raised to new life in Christ, "live as children of light," for, as St. Paul proclaims, "light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."

Liturgy Notes for March 22, 2020 by Justin Soutar:

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally known as *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday, our Scripture readings present the Lord as our Shepherd who governs and heals us. In the Old Testament text, the Lord sends the prophet Samuel to anoint David king of Israel. Saint Paul exhorts the Ephesians to live as children of light. And in John's Gospel, Jesus cures a man born blind and exposes the far more dangerous spiritual blindness of the Pharisees.

"This episode causes us to reflect on our faith in Christ, the Son of God, and at the same time, also refers to Baptism, which is the first sacrament of the faith, the sacrament that makes us "come to light" by the rebirth from 'water and the Holy Spirit... We too have been "enlightened" to Christ in Baptism, and then we are called to behave as children of light. This requires a radical change in thinking, an ability to judge people and things according to a new scale of values, which comes from God. The sacrament of Baptism, in fact, demands a choice, firm and

decided, to live as children of light, and to walk in the light” (Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 3/26/17). As we enter the second phase of Lent, may our penitential journey continue to purify us so that Christ our Light may reign in and through us.

FORMED: While homebound, take advantage of our free parish subscription to FORMED for the best Catholic movies, e-books, study series, webinars, and top speakers! Go to <http://www.formed.org>, scroll down, click Register, enter parish code T2WDQ3, your personal email, click Submit, and fill in your information for free access.

BEST LENT EVER Go to bestlentever.com to sign up for Dynamic Catholic’s free daily Lenten video program. An email arrives each day with a short video and thought based on the book *Rediscover the Saints*. The theme is “It’s not what you give up. It’s who you become.” It’s not too late to make this your best Lent ever!

Prayer Net: Matt Hemp; Jerry Beckley; Noel MacDermott; Terry Early; Antonietta Scire; Mrs. Donald; Dean Batterman; Fr. Chapin Engler; Lou Ramsey; Carol Leninger; Carolyn & Julie Rapoza; Kathy Crawford; Jeanette Luke; Sally Ann Bulger; Robert Dunlap; Deborah Soutar; Ted DeLaney; John Hilt; Wendell Tucker; Patricia Rafferty; Rebecca Greywall; Pauline Porter; Isabella; Aailiyah & Joseph Slagle; Rita Rooney; Frances Farrell; Maria Rosenberger; Margaret Strong; Cathy Keyser; Janet Martin; Carol Melvin; Barbara Thomas; Clare Kulle; Janet Nablo; Carolyn Miller; Marcelle Figlo; Mary Olsen; Eleanor Skip Knight; Ruby Ramsey; Jerry French; Jackie Briganti; Hector Guerrero; our parishioners in nursing homes and those who are homebound; those addicted to alcohol & drugs; the underemployed and unemployed; and our military and their families. (For Prayer Net requests, contact Cher McCoy at 540-570-2111 or chergrindlemccoy@gmail.com.)

Holy Father’s Prayer Intention: That the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Visit Praymorenovenas.com for a special Novena.

Mass Intentions: All Mass Intentions for canceled Masses will be rescheduled. You will receive an email with the new date.

Parish Finances:

Collection for 3/15/2020	\$ 4,143
Weekly Budgeted Need	\$ 7,469
Operating Income YTD	\$ 287,606
Budgeted Operating Income YTD	\$ 276,353
Over YTD Budgeted Income	\$ 11,253

The St. Patrick’s Direct Debit Program is a simple and easy way to make your regular church offering. You determine every part of the program including the amount of the offering and the choice of day when the debit is made. There is no cost to you, and you may withdraw from the program at any time or amend your offering amount and/or frequency. If you would like to enroll in the program, please complete the enrollment form, attach a voided check, and mail it to

the parish office (P.O. Box 725, Lexington, VA 24450). The form is available on the church website at stpatrickslexington.com under the Ministries, Finance Council section. Currently, 16% of our envelope collection is given through the direct debit program. It is very simple to use, so give it a try.

Please continue to check the parish website at stpatrickslexington.com for updates as well as the diocesan website at richmonddiocese.org/coronavirus. You can call the parish office at 540-463-3533 or email at office@stpatrickslexington.com if you need anything or just someone to talk to. Take care & be safe!