



St. Patrick's Newsletter

March 29, 2020

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



Dear Parishioners,

I haven't forgotten you! You are remembered daily in my private Masses, thoughts and prayers.



Our Drive Thru Confessions on Saturday afternoon, 4-5 p.m., have been very successful. In fact, eight penitent drive-thrus actually double the number of four walk-ins I usually hear in the Reconciliation Room.

While we all have high expectations for the reopening of our own church and other parish churches by Holy Week, my advice is that we would not be too presumptive.

Fr. John Shea wrote a book long ago which simply stated: "gather the folks, tell the stories and break the bread." In essence, the contents of his writings accurately identified the: Gathering Song of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word and the reception of Holy Communion.

May we long for what we once had and have a deeper appreciation of what we inadvertently took for granted.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Joseph A. D'Aurora
Pastor

Extraordinary Blessing from Pope Francis: In



response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis will give an extraordinary blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) on Friday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m.

(Rome) / 1:00 p.m. (EST). The formal blessing — usually given only immediately after a new pope's election and on Christmas and Easter — carries with it a plenary indulgence for all who follow by television, internet or radio, are sorry for their sins, recite a few prescribed prayers and promise to go to confession and to receive the Eucharist as soon as possible.

Worship Opportunities: You can listen to Fr. Joe's and Kathleen's two celebrations of Sunday Scriptures on [96.7 fm 3WZ](http://96.7_fm3WZ) 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 at adw.org/tvmass and ewtn.com/tv/watch-live/united-states. Also, we plan to livestream our own Mass very soon. More details shortly.

In a Mass without Congregation, the priest never celebrates alone or for himself. In a recent online article from EWTN's Catholic News Agency, Fr. James Bradley, professor of Canon Law at the Catholic University of America, states that we participate in God's communion with His Church whenever a Mass is celebrated, whether or not we are physically present. He states that the Mass is the sacramental RE-presentation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, offered to the Father, through the Holy Spirit, when "Christ is the principal actor in the Liturgy, so this is something that the Lord does and in which we participate, because we participate in His life through our Baptism." He underscores that the Mass "is not something the priest does as a private individual, but as a minister of the Church, involving the whole Church, and every Mass celebrated each and every time is offered for everyone who is part of the Church." And he reminds us that, as the priest prays in the Mass's Eucharistic Canon, the angels and saints are always present in every celebration of the Mass, as is the whole of the Church on earth. So, a priest is never alone, even when he celebrates Mass at a private altar, for he is always surrounded by, what St. Paul calls, the "Cloud of Witnesses."

May we take heart in knowing that each Mass celebrated, even now, when we cannot be present in church, results in the outpouring of the graces of the Paschal Mystery – Christ's passion, death, and resurrection – and that these graces are still being poured out into the world, with every Mass celebrated by a priest, even without a congregation.

For a beautiful 7-minute representation of the presence of the Saints and Angels at Mass: theveilremoved.com (Click the arrow, "Play the Film") ~ KN-C



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Scripture Readings for this weekend: March 29:
Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45.

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

“This illness is not to end in death,
but is for the glory of God.”

In the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Lent, St. John recounts how Jesus raises Lazarus, who had been dead for four days, as a sign of God's glory manifested in His Son, so that all who witnessed it would believe that He was the Messiah. It is the last sign given in St. John's Gospel that Jesus is truly the Son of God, the Resurrection, and the Life. As we contemplate this Sunday's Scriptures, may we take heart that God fulfills His promises, and that our bondage to sin and death is conquered through His Word Made Flesh. In Him, God's glory is made manifest, for He is the revelation of God's life-giving love, ever with us. ~ KN-C

Liturgy Notes by Justin Soutar:

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, our Scripture readings offer God's promise of resurrection and new life. In the passage from Ezekiel, the Lord foretells the return of the exiled Israelites to their own land. “For with the Lord is kindness and...plenteous redemption” (Ps. 130). Saint Paul tells the Romans that if the Holy Spirit lives in them, God will also raise their mortal bodies from the dead. And in John's Gospel, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead after declaring, “I am the resurrection and the life” and receiving Martha's profession of faith: “I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

“Christ has not resigned himself to the tombs that we have created with our choices of evil and death, with our mistakes, with our sins... He invites us, he almost commands us, to come out of the tombs in which our sins have buried us. He insistently calls us out of the darkness of the prison in which we have shut ourselves, contenting ourselves with a false, egoistic and mediocre life. ‘Come out!’ he tells us, ‘Come out!’ (Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 4/6/14). May we grow in faith and persevere in our Lenten



discipline in order to obtain the new life Christ offers us.



Greetings from St. Peter's:

According to every day news, life is really sad everywhere in the world. Our hearts cannot be quiet. I would like to have the news of our brothers and sisters in St. Patrick's. Please how is everyone, Father Joe your pastor, the members of the community, all the parishioners and the people who live in the city?

All of us we expect God's mercy to cross these dangerous moments. Blessings and peace to your community, to America and to the whole world. May God be merciful to his people.

My greetings to everyone.

Fr. Polinice Daisma

Stations of the Cross: Even though this Lent is very different from previous years, the hardships we endure now are nothing compared to Jesus' death on the cross, but we can use our small sacrifices to draw closer to Him. Here is a "do it yourself" [Stations of the Cross](#). Since we can't go in our parish right now we are bringing it to you. You can pray the stations in your home alone or with others, thus joining yourself in communion with others in our parish. We normally hold Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. but you can do it anytime that is convenient for you. We hope this adds to your Lenten journey and helps you to feel just a little bit like you are "home" in our church.



FORMED: 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.

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



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who you become." It's not too late to make this your best Lent ever!

Magnificat Online: Here are the links for what is now a *free* subscription to the renowned Magnificat Online to meet daily and Sunday devotional and spiritual needs for adults (English and Spanish) and for children - magnificat.com/free, magnificat.com/gratis (Spanish), magnifikid.com/free.

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

Prayer Net: Michele Fletcher; Antoinette Warzinski; Tom Greenwood; 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; our military and their families; the sick and suffering around the world; families affected by the coronavirus; those struggling financially because of this crisis; first responders, medical personal and all government leaders; and our parish, your pastor, bishop and the Holy Father in Rome. (For Prayer Net requests, contact Cher McCoy at 540-570-2111 or chergrindlemccoy@gmail.com.)



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

Visit Praymorenovenas.com for a special Novena.

Parish Finances:

Collection for 3/22/2020	\$ 2,187
Weekly Budgeted Need	\$ 7,469
Operating Income YTD	\$ 289,793
Budgeted Operating Income YTD	\$ 283,822
Over YTD Budgeted Income	\$ 5,971

Giving Options: Thank you for your continued financial stewardship during this difficult time. With public Masses suspended, please consider giving online at offertory.richmonddiocese.org or through our direct debit program at Direct Debit. Both can be accessed through this link or our website. Alternatively, you can mail checks (no cash please) to P.O. Box 725, Lexington, VA 24450 or drop your envelopes in the locked mailbox on the side door of the Parish House.

Please beware of scammers and hackers who remain busy amidst the current COVID-19 situation. Neither St. Patrick's nor Fr. Joe will send emails or text messages to you soliciting donations, gift cards, or private meetings. Stay vigilant and do not reply to emails soliciting money, do not click on links within those emails, and do not download content in them.

Please continue to check the parish website at stpatricksllexington.com for updates as well as the diocesan website richmonddiocese.org/coronavirus. You can call the parish office at 540-463-3533 or email office@stpatricksllexington.com if you need anything or are having trouble getting essentials like groceries or medicine without putting yourself at undue risk. We have some volunteers willing to help. Take care & be safe!



Campus Support Ministry Spaghetti Supper

Photo by Barbara Ekin