

My Dear Parishioners:



Early in the morning, the first day of the week, after Jesus was buried, Mary Magdalen went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus while it was still dark. She was in mourning, worried, and afraid. In mourning because she watched her Lord suffer a horrible death, worried because she did not know who would help roll away the stone from the tomb, and afraid that she would be arrested by the authorities. Despite these worries, as a disciple, she still went out into the darkness of the night guided by her faith. Upon arrival, she saw the stone rolled away, the burial cloths, and the empty tomb. None of it made sense until Jesus encountered her in the garden and spoke to her, calling her by name, Mary.

At that point her fears were relieved and she went to deliver the Good News of the Resurrection to the apostles and the word spread, and the Faith grew and the Church, born out of suffering from the blood and water that flowed from the broken body of Christ on the cross, multiplied and was strengthened for mission by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

After a long and penitential Lent, we members of the Church look forward to coming together to celebrate the central act of our faith, the Resurrection of Jesus, who feeds us with His Body and Blood and promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. This year, we are unable to come together as a parish family to celebrate the Resurrection nor to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist. Like the early Church which grew out of gatherings in believers' homes, we are in our own Upper Room, somewhat fearful and worried about what is to come. We are especially mindful and commend to prayer those who have contracted the virus and we pray for their recovery. We pray for all who protect and serve us in health care and public safety, putting others first. Finally, we commend to our Lord the souls of those who have died.

This world-wide virus makes us aware just how small the world community is today and how we are all part of the one human family with the same needs and hungers. As Catholics, even though we may be behind closed doors, we can still witness our faith through prayer, Spiritual Communion and the Corporal Works of Mercy. We can call a neighbor or person who is ill. We can leave groceries for them and pray with and for them. This is how the early Church came to be. We are still St. Ann's Strong, wherever we are gathered during this crisis. In each Mass your priests celebrate privately, we pray for the intention of the Mass and think of you and pray for you. If we can serve you in any way that is allowed, please call upon us. We are grateful for your care for us during this time and appreciate your continued financial commitment to the weekly offertory to support the work of our parish and school whether electronically through Parish Giving on our website or through the mail. Your messages to the rectory by phone or email will be answered as timely as possible.

In 1976, a large gathering of world-wide Catholics descended on Philadelphia, occupying Veteran Stadium, The Spectrum, and the Civic Center to profess our faith in Jesus, the Bread of Life who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family. When fed by the Bread of Life, we are filled, sustained and energized to go out and serve. You must be the visible Church if you must go to work, to get food, or go to a medical appointment. You must radiate hope on your face that things will get better. It may be you who brings peace and calm to someone you encounter like Jesus did to the fearful disciples in the upper room when he said: "Do not fear! Peace be with you!" Father Jasper and I wish you a blessed Easter and encourage you to view the Mass online or on television during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Right now, we are hungering for the Eucharist which we often take for granted. Until we can safely gather again to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we hunger and seek Him in Spiritual Communion. I leave you with this prayer from that same Eucharistic Congress, taken from the Confessions of St. Augustine, which was attended by then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, now St. John Paul II.



*Father in heaven, you have made us for yourself, our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Fulfill this longing through Jesus the Bread of Life, so that we may witness to Him, who alone satisfies the hungers of the Human Family. By the power of your Spirit, lead us **to the heavenly table where we may feast on the vision of your glory forever and ever. Amen.***

As a Church let us together help satisfy the hungers of the human family: Hunger for God, Hunger for Bread, Hunger for Freedom and Justice, Hunger for the Spirit, Hunger for Truth, Hunger for Understanding, Hunger for Peace, Hunger for Jesus, The Bread of Life.

HOW TO SPEND THESE EASTER DAYS WITHOUT MASS:

With the celebration of Mass publicly suspended, please know that Fr. Mink and Fr. Jasper continue to privately celebrate both daily Masses and the weekend Masses for the specific intentions offered. Although your presence is missed here in a variety of ways at St. Ann's, you and your families are lifted up in our prayers at each celebration of the Liturgy. Know that you are never far from our hearts.

Each time Mass is offered, our Lord continues to pour out graces upon us and on the world. How blessed we truly are with such a gift: the sacrificial outpouring of our Savior's Merciful Love. When you are unable to receive our Lord in the Eucharist (as we are these days), it is always a beautiful practice to make what is called an act of "Spiritual Communion." Doing so means that we are expressing our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and asking Him to unite Himself with us.

St. Alphonsus de Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists, wrote this Act of Spiritual Communion. Feel free to pray it daily in the days ahead: *"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen."*

Here are some other practices to incorporate into your prayer life as we face these days together:

- Unfortunately, our Church is no longer opened for private prayer (by order of the State of Delaware). However, strive to make a set-time each day in your home in a place that can become a quiet, peaceful sanctuary for you.
- Pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and/or Chaplet of Divine Mercy, especially as we approach Divine Mercy Sunday. (guides available on line)
- Read the daily Mass readings (available at the USCCB or Magnificat websites)
- Pray prayers for healing and peace in troubling times (see below for some options)

Prayer of Pope Francis for this time:

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen. Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen. (*Courtesy of the Knights of Columbus*)

Prayer to St. Joseph

Glorious St. Joseph, faithful guardian of Jesus Christ and spouse of Our Lady, to you we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus, all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the graces of healing and hope at this time, and for this special favor I now implore (mention your request).

Guardian of the Word Incarnate and Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, we are filled with confidence that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Priests will be saying these Masses privately for each listed intention

Saturday April 11 Holy Saturday

7:30 P.M. Easter Vigil

Sunday April 12 Easter

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Farren

9:00 A.M. M/M William Ferguson

10:30 A.M. Rev. Msgr. Paul J. Taggart

12:00 P. M. Parishioners

Monday April 13

9:00 A.M. Daniel J. & Kathryn K. Monigle

Tuesday April 14

9:00 A.M. Kathleen Eckrich

Wednesday April 15

9:00 A.M. Bridie Hennelly

Thursday April 16

9:00 A.M. M/M Thomas A. McBride

Friday April 17

9:00 A.M. Tom Zellers

Saturday April 18

8:00 A.M. Braun & Mooney families

5:00 P.M. Henry, John & Jimmy Mauk

Sunday April 19

7:30 A.M. Maria Orga

9:30 A.M. Deceased members of the Harris & Montague families

11:30 A.M. Parishioners

Pray for the sick, shut-ins and elderly of our Parish.

Offertory for the weekend of March 29th was \$7842. As always – thank you for your kind and generous support to St. Ann's.

If you or a parishioner you know is in need of assistance during this time of quarantine (picking up/delivering groceries or medicine), there is a group of volunteers from St. Ann's willing to help. Please send your request to Dave at madello@msn.com.

ST. ANN'S PRAYER LINE – to place a name on the prayer line contact Joe/ Shirley Ackerman at 384-7513 or joeshirl7@comcast.net.

Just a reminder that The Chapel of Divine Mercy is closed due to the pandemic.

Please know that the priests of St. Ann are available to offer guidance/prayer support during these challenging times. Contact the rectory to set-up times for an appointment.

Prayer for Easter Season (from the blog: *My Catholic Life*)

Alleluia! All glory, praise and honor to You Most Glorious Lord Jesus! You have risen from the grave, You have conquered sin and death, You have opened the gates to Heaven! Alleluia! All praise and honor to You Most Glorious Lord Jesus!

My Lord, hope is restored, joy and excitement are instilled in many hearts as You quietly, gently and gloriously rise from the dead, and bring forth new life for this fallen world, even now. Sweet Jesus, give me the eyes of faith that I may see and believe in Your Resurrection. Help me to know the effects of Your triumph in my life. As I come to know You, my resurrected Lord, help me to entrust to You all that I am and all that I hope to be. Help me to trust in the abundant Mercy that flows from Your resurrected soul.

Dear Lord, help me to enter deeply into the mystery of Easter during this eight day celebration of the Octave of Easter. I pray that every day of this Octave will be a day of deepening trust and union with You in the glory of Your Resurrection.

Lord of Mercy, as our Church prepares for the glorious celebration of Mercy, poured out in a special way on the eighth day of this Octave, on Divine Mercy Sunday, help me to open my heart more deeply than ever before to the abundance of Grace and Mercy You wish to bestow. Pour forth Your Mercy into my life and into the lives of all Your children. I offer You my family, friends, community and the entire world. I pray for the faithful, the sinner, the lost and confused, the faithful, the clergy, our Holy Father and all of Your precious children. May we all anticipate, with eager hope, the abundance of grace You wish to dispense, and look forward to the day when we can celebrate Mass together as a community.

My Resurrected Jesus of Mercy, I trust in You. Jesus, I trust in You. Jesus, I trust in You! 3