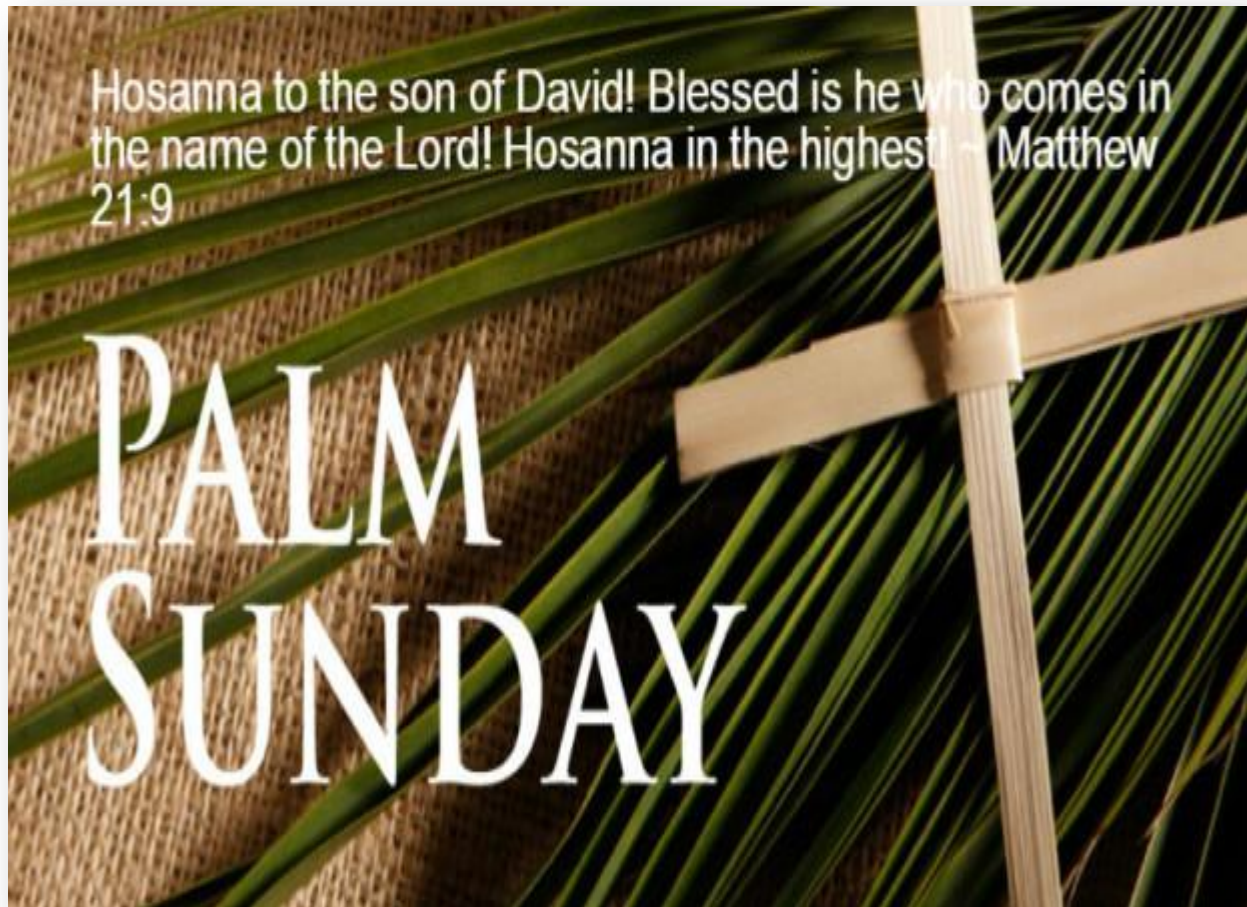


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Come and pray with us!

Palm Sunday – April 5, 2020

Vision Statement: *Holy Cross is a vibrant Catholic community striving to maintain a spirit of welcome to all, serving as a guiding beacon to nourish and sustain prayer, work and play.*

We celebrate Eucharist

The 9AM Daily Mass, Monday-Friday &
the Sunday 11:30AM Mass will be live streamed on Facebook.

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Pastor, ext.115

Dcn. Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister, ext.119

Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Michele Hahn
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Tricia Clarke
Religious Ed. Coord., ext.112

Mary Anne McCulloch
Parish Outreach Coord., ext.113

Barbara DeStefano
Business Manager, ext.110

Brian Reich
Music Ministry Director

Alexandra Roecklein
Youth Minister

Pastoral Staff

Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister

Mary Pannone
Religious Ed. Secretary, ext.111

Barbara Shipman
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Roberto Maza
Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Please pray for those in our parish who are sick, their families and caregivers:

Patricia Becker, George V. Daly, Manuela Diaz, Ann Egan, Phil Graziose, Bob Grieco, Joseph Santamaria, Marlene Starr, Judy Viskupic

Mass Intentions for upcoming week: Mon.-Catherine Berdon; Tue.-Henri-Robert Lamarque

Mass Intentions for Easter Sunday, April 12, 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed

on Facebook: All prayers and intentions of the People of the Parish

The Church and Parish Offices are closed. You can leave a message for us at the above extensions. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Readings for next week, Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

God, give me Grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, Taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, Trusting that You will make all things right if I Surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.

Coronavirus Chronicle #4

by Father Michael

Please keep in mind, this is being written on Monday evening. Ongoing developments and ever-changing circumstances make an announcement made today outdated and inaccurate within about 10 minutes. It can be frustrating, but for the moment, this is our way of life.

It is my humble opinion that we find ourselves in the midst of what will be the two most difficult weeks of this crisis. Initially, it took time for many of us to realize the scope and depth of what was happening. We slowly adjusted and changed our routines to find a “new normal.” We did so with a certain level of focus and determination that this is what needed to be done. At this point, our focus may be getting blurry and our determination getting dull. And, now there are ever stronger pleas to take the “stay at home” directive literally. As difficult as it has been, we now have to ramp it up even more. We are told if everyone cooperates, we will be able to get a handle on the spread of the illness. We could be on the brink of a turning point, but it will demand more sacrifice and hard work on the part of everyone. This will be a test of our character and nature both individually and collectively. Commit yourself to the difficult path that will lead to healing and new life.

On a practical level, this has been a hard week for me. Administrative responsibilities have taken on greater weight than I have ever experienced before. On Monday, I participated in a 2 ½ hour webinar explaining some of the details of the stimulus/relief package, human resource issues, employer’s responsibilities, etc. All of this is serious and necessary, but also daunting to try to sort out. I have to say, in my 30+ years of priesthood the level of support and guidance that is coming from the Diocese has never been greater or more helpful. They are truly trying to help us through these stormy waters, for which I am most grateful.

By the way, it’s Palm Sunday. Normally, Lent is a time in which we sacrifice a little something and spend some more time in prayer. But, for most of us, it is pretty much life as usual with a dash more holiness. This has been a Lent like no other. There has been nothing optional about any of this. We are in it together and we are in it deeply. Allow the power of these days, and the roller coaster of your emotions to be reflected in the story we tell. Jesus at first enters Jerusalem with great fanfare and praise. But, his visit quickly turns; we hear the story of the passion. May the story of the Lord’s suffering unite with our hearts like never before. We are in the midst of the Paschal Mystery. Yes, there is a dying, but there will be new life. Have hope!

Continue to watch our Facebook page and website for news and developments. Let us continue to pray for each other.

PARISH NEWS



Pray for our Military

PFC Anna Brady
Cpl. Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
SA Anthony J. DeNicola
FC2 Lane Dyar
Brandon Ferrara
SSG Daniel Frost
MIDN Jonathan Goohs Jr., USNA
WO Christopher Kaminsky
Sgt. Michael J. Knipper, USMC
SSGT Ryan Mauldin
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
Lt. Ryan Montvydas
IT1 Jason Mulderig
LCpl. Michael Palagonia, USMC

We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service. We will continue to pray for them through 2020. Please let us know at any time during 2020 if their service is finished, their title has changed, or you would like continued prayers through 2021.

May God bless all who serve our nation. Pray for peace!

March Baptisms

We welcome these children who were baptized in March!

Shane Nicholas Dasch

Serafina Clara DeMaio

Roxanne Nicole Marcus

Lukas Jacob Mastrogiacomo

Bread and Wine

*The **Bread and Wine** for the week April 4th - 11th have been donated in loving honor of Sister Maura Costello's birthday by Sister Rosaleen.*



Cash Calendar

We will not be selling "Cash Calendar" chances in April. If all goes as planned, we will begin selling them again the first weekend in May. Chances that were purchased in March will be added to May chances and will be drawn the end of May. For questions regarding this, please call Barbara DeStefano @ 631-265-2200 x110.

A Prayer for Families to their Guardian Angels

O holy guardian angels, to whose care we have been entrusted by God, enlighten, preserve, and govern us this day; defend us from all temptations, and obtain for us all needful grace, that we may love God, and serve him here, until we join with you to love, praise, and enjoy God's presence, in everlasting life.

May the Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life, and may the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen

PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply

Next Sunday is the beautiful celebration of Easter. Our Lenten journey is coming to an end as we anticipate the joy of Christ's Resurrection!



If you haven't already done so, we ask that you return your "Eat Simply" envelopes by next weekend. You can mail them in, or drop them in the drop box in the parish courtyard.

On behalf of the hungry we serve each day, we thank you for participating in this special Lenten activity. Your prayerful sacrifices will help feed our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Everyone Counts/Census 2020

The census is still ongoing. With the current situation due to Covid 19, it is more important than ever that people self-report online or by phone. You can fill out the census for your household at www.2020census.gov even if you have not received your invitation and census ID number. Just enter your address to begin. You can also respond by phone at **844-330-2020**.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

The Holy Father has indicated that the Holy Land collection, normally taken during Holy Week (on Good Friday), will be transferred to Sunday, September 13th, close to the celebration of the Triumph of the Holy Cross.



To assist the Faithful who are struggling during this crisis, Bishop Barres has issued a general dispensation from the law of abstinence (refraining from meat) for Good Friday, 2020. All are reminded, however, that Good Friday remains a day of fasting and penance.

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT PRAYER

As many of you know, we have a Prayer Blanket Ministry at Holy Cross. Over a dozen parishioners sew, knit, or crochet lap blankets, praying for the intentions of the sick while they work. The blankets are then delivered to Holy Cross, where a prayer card is added. The card says “You are covered in prayer” and has a Scripture quote on it: “Be not afraid; I, the Lord, am with you always.” The blankets are blessed at Mass by Fr. Michael and the community, and each recipient’s name is written in our Prayer Blanket Journal, to be remembered every day in prayer. Since this ministry began in 2006, over 1100 blankets have been given to those who are ill.

Sometimes we hear from people who have received Prayer Blankets, and their words are always ones of deep gratitude. The blankets are all beautiful; the message they carry brings more than beauty: they are tangible signs of the presence of God and of the prayerful support of our community. When the ill are in pain or are feeling frightened or lost, holding onto that blanket brings them comfort and peace.

Prayer Blankets are not magic; they don’t bring miraculous healings. What they do is symbolize a great truth of our faith: our God is always with us. For all of us now, who are struggling with uncertainty and fear, what do we have to hold onto? Where do we turn to be reminded that our God is always with us? I believe the answer is *prayer*.

- Daily Mass is now live-streamed at 9:00AM, Monday – Friday, on our Facebook page. Scores of parishioners gather (virtually) each morning to pray together with Fr. Michael. Try it and see how God is truly with you.
- Place a cross where it can be seen. Take a minute now and then to quiet yourself before it. Say the “Jesus Prayer”: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Or, simply repeat the name Jesus several times. Let the peace of Jesus come into your heart. Try it and see how God is truly with you.
- Pause occasionally to take deep breaths. Pay attention to those breaths and feel God’s Spirit within you. Try it and see how God is truly with you.
- Before you sleep, light a candle. Sit quietly with it and review your day. Note the times that were stressful or challenging; ask God for help with those moments tomorrow. Know that God hears you. Then note the good things that happened, and thank God for them. Let the candle remind you of God’s presence, and end your day with thoughts and words of gratitude. Try it and see how God is truly with you.

A wise man once told me, “The desire to pray is prayer itself.” It can be a struggle to find the time, or the words; the important thing is to try. Even if only for a few minutes, give yourself the gift of connecting with the God who loves you. Hold onto love.

Be safe, be peaceful,
Jude Pickel

BLESSING FOR A CAREGIVER

May the Wellspring of Compassion
be opened in you.
May soothing words find a home in you.
May Tenderness bless you
as you reach out to Comfort
in body, mind and spirit.
In the midst of fear or frustration
may Courage be given you.
May Patience keep vigil with you and
Peace of Mind calm you.
May your heart find a song to sing
even when you are weary.
May Abundant Love lift you and
Gratitude bless you as you
live the mission of Care entrusted to you.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

None of us could have imagined even weeks ago, that we would celebrate Holy Week and Easter Sunday *virtually*.

I have been amazed and inspired by the creativity and initiative of our pastors, our people and our parishes to continue evangelizing all of Long Island.

Whether it is video-streaming Masses and Eucharistic adoration, conducting a virtual parish mission, or a health precaution sensitive Eucharistic procession through neighborhoods, you are all moving forward and trusting in the transformative power of the Risen Christ as we continue to experience the tragedies, trauma, unemployment, financial and economic distress of the COVID- 19 crisis.

The light that streams from the glorified wounds of the Risen Jesus always touches and transforms our wounds and fears, and the wounds and fears of the world.

We remember in a special way this Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season the souls of those who have died from the corona virus and their families, and those who, as Pope Francis says, are “writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, deacons, religious men and women and so very many others.” We remember our families and the efforts of each of us to care for our families and our neighbors.

While we are all in pain that our Holy Week 2020 needs to be a virtual one, we do have a Pastoral Letter, *The Great Week: A Pilgrimage with the Lord in Holy Week* which can help strengthen, lift and inspire our virtual Holy Week celebrations.

This Pastoral Letter is a user-friendly, easily understandable synthesis of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum, its liturgical theology, spirituality and history, designed to show the relationship between the Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week and Catholic Evangelization.

I encourage everyone to participate in all the Holy Week liturgies virtually through the Catholic Faith Network (see: catholicfaithnetwork.org for details) and through your own parishes streaming the liturgies.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Let's take this unique and virtual evangelization opportunity to pray that the Risen Christ might lead a massive return of Catholic Long Islanders to a full, active and conscious participation in our Holy Week liturgies and our Sunday Masses throughout the year.

I encourage you all to read and pray our Pastoral Letter which is available on our diocesan website DRVC.org and in the March 2020 *Long Island Catholic* magazine that many of you received at home.

I also had the opportunity on March 27, 2020, to share the Pastoral Letter with every American Bishop in the United States for possible use in their dioceses as they celebrate virtual Holy Weeks around the country.

I received an email from the Bishop of Fairbanks, Alaska. He thanked the Diocese of Rockville Centre for sharing the Holy Week Pastoral Letter with the people of Fairbanks, Alaska and said: "We have 37 remote parishes of Native Alaskans, pretty much on 'lock down' that could benefit enormously from the Pastoral Letter."

Catholic Long Islanders stand in the solidarity of the Risen Lord with Catholic Alaskans! This is just another example of the global Catholic solidarity that our Holy Father Pope Francis models for us and calls us to.

Thank you for continuing to support your parish and the vital ministries of our Church as your means allow during this most challenging time for all of us. The Church continues to serve the spiritual and physical needs of people during this crisis. Weekly collections mailed or given online will be critical to the sustaining and reemergence of our parishes.

Our Easter joy may be delayed this year, but our faith, hope and trust in the power of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection must shine brighter than ever. The cross of this crisis offers us the opportunity for a renewed and lasting appreciation for the gift of family and the transformative power of faith.

Know that you and all your families are in my heart and in my prayers as we celebrate *The Great Week*, Easter Sunday, the Easter Octave, Divine Mercy Sunday and the Easter Season.

He is Risen! Alleluia!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

SOME IDEAS FROM PARISHIONERS

What are you doing to cope?

We're sure everyone is coming up with new routines, practices and precautions. This is all necessary to do, but some of it has a somber quality and seriousness to it. However, it is also important to balance our lives with fun and/or productive activity. Here are some ways parishioners are coping during these unusual days:



Organizing my zillion recipes into my separate books--throwing out the excess! It's been sitting there for years now...

Thoroughly going through my closets and getting rid of items I haven't worn, don't need, etc--including my jewelry

Going through all of my pictures and downloading onto my photo frame or computer. P.S. my photo frames were the BEST gifts I ever got! I can enjoy my pictures everyday should I choose to put them on. Also, it will be great to enjoy/reminisce when family and friends can finally visit.

I've enjoyed going for long walks, bike rides, exploring different state parks, Greenbelts, beaches I've never before visited.

Reading that pile of books!

Walking my dog!

Playing in the backyard!

Watching 9AM morning Mass, Sunday 11:30AM Mass and Fr. Michael's video, *Hallway of Happiness* on Facebook! Thank you Fr. Michael!

Listening to Brian's home concerts on Facebook! His puppies have great voices!

Watching reruns and movies, limiting the amount of time hearing the news.

Enjoying a family game of pool!

Looking forward to enjoying our firepit!

These days can be very challenging and stressful, but let us give thanks for the blessings in our lives and ask God for the strength to see us through these difficult times.

UPDATED NEWS AND INFORMATION

- All public Masses (weekday & weekend) are suspended through at least April 14.
- Masses are live-streamed via Facebook, Monday-Friday @9:00AM and Sundays @11:30AM. A link to Mass is posted on our website. All Saturday and Sunday Mass intentions are read at the Sunday 11:30AM Mass.
- The Church and Parish Offices are closed, but parish business may be conducted via phone. Please know we are here to serve you. Please leave a message and we will reach out to you.
- Funerals may not take place.
- Weddings may not take place.
- Unless there are serious circumstances, Baptisms may not take place.
- All hospital visitations will be handled by chaplains who are assigned to each hospital.
- All Parish meetings and activities are cancelled through April 14.
- Although Religious Education classes and activities are cancelled, our Religious Education Program will continue via on-line instruction. Information will be forthcoming from our Religious Education Office.
- We anticipate that there will be many additional requests for assistance from our Parish Outreach. Those in need of assistance should call Parish Outreach for an appointment.
- Continue to monitor our website and Facebook page regarding updates and changes.
- Remember, Mass is also broadcasted on Catholic Faith Network at www.Catholicfaithnetwork.org , on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FIOS TV channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471.



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