

The Parish of the Holy Cross

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LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



Come and pray with us!

Easter Sunday – April 12, 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.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

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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 the upcoming week: Mon.-Denise Lamarque; Tue.-Joseph Capiello; Wed.-Neal & Concetta Romano; Thu-Phil & Ronnie Graziose (living)

All Mass Intentions for April 18/19 will be read at the 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook: Laura Prinzo, Stephen Albert Eith, Mary Behrens, Michael Walsh, Joseph Pellechi, Danny Papaccio, James Kaligeris, Sara Trahey, James Pickel, Agnes Bryan

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 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 19: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

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.

The Universality of These Days

by Father Michael

On any given Sunday, a little less than a thousand people will come to Mass at Holy Cross. These individuals carry in their hearts the issues of their lives. There may be concern for someone in the family who is sick. There might be reason to celebrate or give thanks such as a wedding, anniversary, or the birth of a grandchild. Or, life may be quite manageable and under control for the moment. Each person will have a different set of concerns, prayers, worries, and joys. We come together and share in the common prayer of the Mass, and then we go our separate ways.

These days are unique beyond measure. The coronavirus has created a common experience like nothing else we have ever experienced. It has transcended every distinction of life: nationality, economic status, political philosophy, age, etc. Like never before, we are all sharing in a common story and common ground. Sadly, this union is a frightening one. It brings with it many levels of suffering.

There is an opportunity to look at this crisis from a different perspective beyond the pain and sorrow. First, we can recognize and affirm the great human spirit which has arisen. Countless ordinary people are doing heroic work. But, there is a level that goes even far beyond that. We need to look at this from the level of faith. We need to see this as an unprecedented revelation of Christ.

Never before have so many people shared in a common experience of the cross. The scope and depth of suffering goes beyond anyone's individual life. We have seen beyond the shadow of a doubt that a virus has the ability to transcend all boundaries, touch every individual, and allow us to experience life in a different way. Can we be open to the possibility of the presence of Christ to do the same? Our Savior can do more to build life, than any illness can do to destroy life. These days have prompted all of us to look at life differently. Part of that new vision must be the power and grace of the Risen Lord.

This pandemic has created fear, anxiety, worry and even death. I don't think for one moment that God inflicted this pandemic upon us. But, I do think His presence and life is woven into every moment of it. It was the power of Christ that fed a multitude, calmed stormy seas, and raised Lazarus from the dead. This is our moment to know the strength of the Lord as we have never known. He has unmistakably crashed into our lives. Let us embrace Him and know His love. In the midst of this great absurdity and paradox, we thoughtfully and profoundly proclaim... Happy Easter! Alleluia!

A REFLECTION FOR EASTER



In the *Gospel of John (3:16)*, we read, “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*” *God so loved the world ... do we truly comprehend what that means? God’s love for each one of us is so deep, so extravagant that God freely chose to take on human life, experiencing all (except sin) that it means to be human,*

showing us how to live while enduring rejection, pain, and ultimately, death. But death for Jesus, we remember, is not a defeat. When seen through Easter eyes, the cross becomes a sign of hope, a sign of love, a sign of victory. Through the loving act of Jesus, light triumphs over darkness, good triumphs over evil, life triumphs over death. Not just for him, but for us.

For many, the joy of this Easter is tempered by the uncertainty and fear with which we are living. Now, more than ever, we need to embrace the Paschal Mystery and live as Easter people, knowing that God is with us and will bring us through our long Good Friday to a glorious and joyful resurrection.

Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, the Superior General of the Jesuits for many years, suffered a debilitating stroke. Shortly before he died, he wrote a prayer which ends with the line, “It is indeed a profound spiritual experience to know and feel myself so totally in God’s hands.” The challenge now for all of us is to place ourselves totally in God’s hands, trusting that all will be well, and all will be well, all manner of things will be well.

Hold on to love, everyone. Amen. Alleluia!

Jude Pickel



LITURGY BYTES

Triduum – Season or not?

Even though our Triduum celebrations (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil) and even Easter have taken on a very different appearance this year, I can't help thinking about one of my favorite Scripture stories – the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) when thinking about the Triduum (a/k/a my favorite time of the year). Yes, it is a separate season and actually one liturgy broken up into parts making it separate and distinct from the Lenten and Easter seasons. Even though these moments this year have taken on a different experience for us, we will still embrace their importance in perhaps a spiritual way, because we are unable to be there in person. Last week, as I was walking outside to get fresh air, I starting thinking about these precious days ahead that have always deeply impacted my love for liturgy. For some reason, my mind wandered to one of my favorite Scripture passages – the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).



I started thinking... Why didn't the two disciples recognize Jesus as they walked together while telling him all that had occurred: the Passover meal/Last Supper, the road to Calvary/Crucifixion and the Resurrection? Would I have recognized Him if I were there? Without coming to an answer, I fast forwarded to the present-day events and started making the following connections.

I thought about what we have been living with these past weeks and became overwhelmed as to what we have seen: the humble gesture of washing feet over and over within our own homes, and certainly in all of our medical facilities and beyond; we see meals being shared so all may be nourished, in a variety of ways the offering of "take and eat" rings out; we see suffering and even death (some very close to us), difficult and tragic as it is, we realize life isn't lost but changed, and we are able to realize that our Alleluia moment is coming. Just as the disciples on the road grew jubilant as they recognized HIM in the breaking of the bread, we, too, soon (I pray) will be filled with many Resurrection moments as we recognize and realize He has been with us all along on this "road," here with us as we journey around each day in our homes and through our neighborhoods. We have truly lived the Paschal mystery of dying and rising with Christ Jesus. Onto the great 50 days of Easter, new growth, new life and the gift of receiving the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. Keep the journey going, share the Good News; we need to do this for one another!

Happy Easter~ Michele Hahn

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT UPON

- What do you do the most during these days?
- What positive quality or gift have you discovered in yourself?
- In what ways are you doing better than you thought you would?
- Have there been any times when you have become emotional? Beyond sadness, have there been any tears shed because of the goodness of another person or a profound awareness of God's grace?
- What positive lessons is God teaching you?
- What am I grateful for today?
- What do I appreciate now that I took for granted before?
- How does the beauty of these spring days lift my spirits?
- How does it feel to turn off my devices and take a walk outside?



EASTER FLOWERS *in Memory of...*

James Pickel
 Damien Pickel
 John & Virginia Conlin
 Barbara Martin
 Ray Sabbatini
 George Parisi
 Frank Ranieri
 Our Parents
 Robert Talay
 Paul Loiacono
 Justa & Angel Bilbao
 Sal & Maria Loiacono
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 Bruno Santina
 Irene Garcia
 Andrea Mangiapanella
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 Frances Cooper
 M/M Nicholas Lamb
 M/M William McQuade
 Dorothy & Harold Kohler
 John (Jack) Harris
 Patricia Schussler
 Laura & Alfred Izzo
 Perrino & Italiano families
 Anthony DeVito Jr.
 Gerard Gruener
 John Gibbons
 Kathy Rivers
 Mary Kozicki



PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply



Happy Easter!

Just a reminder to return your Eat Simply envelopes. We are so very grateful for the ways you have sacrificed this Lent in order to participate in our Eat Simply Program. Through your efforts, the light of Resurrection has shattered the darkness in the lives of our struggling neighbors. May the joy of Easter continue to be a blessing for you throughout the coming year!

Long Island Cares

Long Island Cares thanks you! Many thanks to our parishioners who contributed to our Lenten food drive for Long Island Cares. A very generous amount of food was collected and will be distributed across the Island to eliminate hunger among our neighbors. Thank you so much!

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**.



PARISH NEWS

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.

PARISH NEWS AND INFORMATION

- All public Masses (weekday & weekend) have been suspended.
- 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 have been suspended.
- 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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