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LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!

Rejoice with a glorious,
inexpressible

joy!

1 Peter 1:8



Come and pray with us!

2nd Sunday of Easter – April 19, 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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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, Francesco DiMartino

Mass Intentions for the upcoming week: Mon.-Charlotte Wangenstein; Tue.-Joan Babino; Wed.-Maria Conte; Thu.-Rinaldi family

All Mass Intentions for April 25/26 will be read at the 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook: Victor Lamarque, John J. & Jane Daly, Joseph Pavek, Ellen Brady, Ewa Sypytkowska, Maria Eannacone, Donald Anderson, 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 3rd Sun. of Easter, April 26: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35



The Bread and Wine for the week April 19th-25th have been donated
in loving memory of
Carmela & Michael Terranova & Thomas Brophy
by their family.

Coronavirus Chronicle #5

by Father Michael

I'm sure for many people these days of being at home have prompted folks to undertake rainy-day projects that have been on hold for years. In many instances, "spring-cleaning fever" has hit. There is a tendency of not wanting to throw out some of the treasures that have been piled in closets. People want to see their stuff put to good use. Our St. Vincent de Paul bins have been getting a workout. However, we received word this week that they will not be serviced until further notice. In fact, they came and sealed them. So, please do not leave your treasures stacked up in front of them. Also, do not fill our dumpster with items that would have been going into the bins.

One of the struggles that I continually face during these days is very limited knowledge of technology. I'm limping by with my cell phone and my 10-year-old iPad, and I'm sure many time-consuming tasks would be much easier if I actually knew what I was doing. I can sympathize with educators, parents, and so many others who now find themselves dependent on devices, apps and programs they do not fully understand. (Remember the good old days when apps only referred to the first course before dinner was served?)

I hope that Easter was a joyful and peaceful day for you. In spite of the challenges of these days, I hope you were able to encounter the gift of the Lord's hope. I spoke to one woman who "binge-watched" Masses all day from various corners of our nation and beyond. I am aware of at least one family whose Easter egg decorating with the kids was not slowed down because of a mere pandemic. I am also aware of at least one backyard egg hunt that went off without a hitch. I think many families did as I did and had a virtual gathering with family before having a special meal.

I have to say, Mass last week was a bit of a challenge for me. I don't know why; this was not my first live streamed Mass from the Worship Area. I just felt nervous and wanted to make sure I "got it right," whatever that means. I was distracted by a sound system that was cracking. There were occasional people wandering through the courtyard that caught the corner of my eye. I pray none of these things were a distraction for you. I think part of what I was aware of was that there was no "feedback" from the congregation. It's not like people are used to shouting out "Amen" or booing if I say something they disagree with. But, there is a subtle dialog that takes place during the Eucharist. Yes, I have my prayers and you have your responses. But, there is something that takes place beyond that. I have a sense of when folks are with me and when we are truly praying together. I guess that is something that technology cannot provide.

The question has already been posed. Will we continue to live stream Mass after all this is over? I think there is more we can do with technology, and we need to explore that. But, nothing replaces the people of God gathered around the altar in faith. We will see how the Spirit will teach us the lessons we need to know as we work our way through all this. Have a blessed week.

A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

One of my favorite post-resurrection passages is of Mary Magdalene and Jesus in the Gospel of John (20:11 - 16). But Mary stayed outside the tomb, weeping. And, as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him."



Early on the first day of the week ... Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. John 20:1

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him, "Rabboni," which means teacher.

Mary was someone especially close to Jesus. Her life was transformed by his love. And she must have held a special place in his heart for him to choose to appear to her on Easter morning. We do not know why she didn't recognize him, but what we do know is this: all he had to do was say her name, and suddenly, all was clear. The one whom she loved was alive. How profoundly joyful that moment must have been for her. Stories such as this offer an invitation to each one of us. How can I have a relationship like that with Jesus? How do I experience his tenderness and love? What would it be like for me to hear Jesus speak my name?

In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis encourages all Christians to a "renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ." This invitation is for all of us. Pope Francis explains, "...whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms." Can we take the risk, and invite Jesus more fully into our lives, trusting that he is already there?

In these especially trying times, our God is the one constant on whom we can rely. The words of Pope Francis truly seem prophetic: "Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will."

Hold on to love, everyone.
Jude Pickel

LITURGY BYTES

Great 50 Days

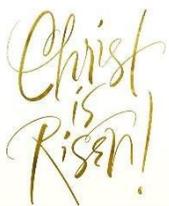
Thought for the week: So, how should we celebrate the Easter season after coming off a very different experience of Lent that has affected our entire world? Our Faith has taught us to believe in the glory of the Resurrection which we embrace and celebrate each year. Jesus died for all of us and opened the gates of heaven so we will have eternal joy with Him after our earthly lives. **IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE AND REJOICE!!!**



Obviously, we all realize that it cannot be business as usual, considering the events of the past 30+ days. Together, we have witnessed numerous examples of service battling this horrendous virus, moments of fear and moments of joy, moments of missing those you hold dear in your lives. But, in my opinion, the greatest void comes from not being able to receive the Eucharist. The privilege of sharing in the life of Our Lord that has been pre-empted, has awakened in my heart a sense of loss. I know that many share this same feeling. It causes me to wonder why many people in recent years, because of busy lives, no longer find the time to attend weekend Mass, thereby depriving themselves of receiving Jesus each week. Will this absence make a difference so, once again, the pews in our churches will be packed each weekend like at Easter or Christmas? Through the grace of God, I feel this experience will make a difference for us as Church.

So, as we celebrate these great 50 days of the Easter season of 2020, I ask you, “What should be our mission going forward?” Continue to unite yourself through the prayer of Spiritual Communion each day, if you have not done so. The prayer appears on the website, if you need it.

Looking ahead, my heart is telling me to re-evangelize about what the Eucharist is and means to our lives. There are many folks, who through no fault of their own, do not understand what the Real Presence actually is and what it means. Together, through prayer, study and reflection we can change that. More to come in the weeks ahead, but in the meantime, please stay safe, practice social distancing and take part in the great gift our Pastor, Fr. Michael, has been offering us – live streamed Mass each day at 9AM and Sunday at 11:30AM.



**“WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE, WE BELIEVE”
HAPPY EASTER SEASON~~~~Michele Hahn**

PARISH OUTREACH

UNITED WAY FUND FOR COVID-19 ASSISTANCE

United Together - A Response Fund for COVID-19:

We recognize that this time is extremely stressful and difficult for families across Long Island, especially for many of you who are experiencing unprecedented financial hardship. United Way of Long Island's [UNITED TOGETHER: A Response Fund For COVID-19](#) will be used to help Long Island families as the current health and economic crisis progresses. If you are a low-income, wage earner and have had a recent sudden loss of employment or furlough due to the effects of COVID-19, assistance will be available for eligible applicants. Support will be provided until these funds are exhausted.

Who Can Receive Assistance?

Assistance is limited to low-income, wage earners who reside in Nassau or Suffolk County and are recently unemployed or have been furloughed due to the effects of COVID-19. Applicants must meet the [monthly income eligibility guidelines](#).

What Assistance Will I Receive?

UNITED TOGETHER: A Response Fund for COVID-19 will help eligible applicants meet their critical basic needs of food and household supplies via retail gift cards.

How to Apply:

Applicants looking to request assistance from UNITED TOGETHER: A Response Fund for COVID-19, may do so by applying online or by downloading and submitting an application by clicking on the following link: www.unitedwayli.org/covid19application

EVERYONE COUNTS / CENSUS 2020

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

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**.



EASTER FLOWERS *in Memory of...*

Theresa & Rocco Carofano
Antonia & Vito Minerva
Guy Plourde
Maria Eannacone

Linda Marino
Rose Marino
Capt. James V. Amature, USMC
Frank Giambanco

Gene Doherty
Aunt Josephine Vitale
Uncle Pete DeLuca
Uncle Nick DiGiovanni
Uncle Joe Vitale



Serenity Prayer

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.

PARISH NEWS

Online Prayer Pages



At this time, while the church is closed for private prayer, we would like to offer the opportunity for people to express their prayer intentions.

Beginning next week, you can leave a message at the office at 631-265-2200 ext.122 or email your prayers to pothc@optonline.net.

Your intentions will be added to our *Online Prayer Pages*, which can be viewed by clicking the link on the homepage of our website, and can be prayed for by others. (Please note: If praying for those who are ill, last names may not always appear unless permission has been granted.)

Collection Envelopes

This weekend in your envelope packet, you will find a **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund collection envelope. Next weekend, you will find a **Mother's Day Mass Remembrance** envelope (names of loved ones will appear in our Mother's Day bulletin). Envelopes may be mailed to Holy Cross or placed in the drop box in our courtyard. We thank you for your continued support during these difficult times.

Cash Calendar

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

PARISH NEWS AND INFORMATION

- All public Masses (weekday & weekend) are suspended until further notice.
- 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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