

# *The Parish of the Holy Cross*

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**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**

*He was made known to them in the breaking of bread.*



**Come and pray with us!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – April 26, 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 are live streamed on Facebook.

# We are here for you!

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Fr. Michael Holzmann  
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  
hcreled@optonline.net

Barbara Shipman  
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Roberto Maza  
Vincent Matula  
Custodians

Mary Inghilterra  
Weekend Sacristan

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### **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.-Adrienne Reilly; Tue.-Alyssa DeWeever Rogan; Wed.-Bob DeFilippis; Thu.-Helen Dalamango

**All Mass Intentions for May 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> will be read at the 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook:** Louis Follo, Elisa Keena, Jane Daly, John Vorst, Ellen Brady, Maureen Clarke, Marie Rossi, Kaitlyn Mariella, Roseann Cousin

**The Church is open for private prayer:** Monday through Friday from 10AM to 2PM and Sundays from 7:30AM to 11AM.

**The 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Easter, May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

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*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 Chronicles #6

*by Father Michael*

These past few weeks, I have not been giving my bulletin articles catchy titles. If I had to give one this week, it would be "Ode to a Lousy Day." Monday of this week was a miserable day for me. I started off in good shape. There was not a wave of bad news that I had to deal with in terms of parishioners being sick or dying. I think I had a positive spirit as I celebrated Mass. I even had a burst of productive energy after that. I got through everything on my work list in about an hour and a half. But, by lunch I came to the realization this was not a good day.

I did everything you are "supposed to do." I ate healthy meals. I did not drink alcohol. I went for a couple of walks. I dusted my living room. I read a chapter of a book. I called friends. In spite of doing all that good stuff, I could not escape a cloud of sadness, loneliness, and a feeling of just being tired and fed up with this whole crisis. I fell asleep on my couch watching Green Acres and feeling kind of defeated.

For many of you, I am sure you have already had this kind of day. For some, they may even come quite regularly. I wish I had a miracle solution; I don't. Years ago I heard a phrase that just kind of made sense when I heard it, "falling into the arms of a loving God." I don't know exactly what that means or how to do it, but I think that was what I did. Sometimes all we can do is offer to God what is, even though we may not like it. Allow God to do what only God can do. I had a decent night's sleep and woke up on Tuesday with an awareness of a new day and feeling better. I hope that positive energy continues.

I know part of this whole process is learning how to surrender to God in ever-new and ever-changing ways. I know woven into the intensity of these days are new lessons of God's wisdom which still has to be learned by all of us. I think there is a temptation to believe we can negotiate everything that is in front of us with logic and a positive attitude. Yes, being upbeat can contribute to good days. But, inevitably there will be lousy days. I had to remind myself not to beat myself up for having a bad day. I suspect I am not alone in that feeling.

Will there be more difficult days ahead? Most assuredly. Will there be brighter days ahead? Most assuredly. Will God be at our side through it all? Most assuredly. May you continue to feel the life that comes from God alone. Don't be reluctant to receive it from others through their words and kindness. Don't be hesitant to be that bearer of hope to others. Continue to pray that God will give all of us the wisdom and fortitude to move forward.

# EASTER DAYS



In connecting with others through social media and telephone this week, I have heard Easter this year described in various ways: different, difficult, lonely, challenging, joyful in spite of everything. And then, a few days ago someone shared with me that her Easter this year was “simple.” Simple. That really resonates with me.

I love our Church traditions, especially the rituals of Holy Week. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday with the washing of the feet, the reading of the Passion on Good Friday with the veneration of the Cross, the fire and candles at the Easter Vigil with the welcoming of new members into our community – I love it all, I missed it, and I missed us all being together and sharing Eucharist together.

And yet, on Easter morning, there was something profoundly beautiful about celebrating the joy of the resurrection remotely with Fr. Michael, Deacon Ralph, and Brian (with Vinnie’s help) and hundreds of parishioners. There were no huge crowds and there were fewer voices raised in song and prayer, but there was the sun, and the beauty of our worship space, and our pastor, and all of us – and Jesus, risen from the dead.

During the Easter season as we hear the post-resurrection stories of Jesus, I am reminded again of the paradox of the cross. What some would see as defeat, Christians view as victory: in the loving act of Jesus, good defeated evil, life overcame death. But, in his victory, Jesus did not return as the conquering hero; he returned quietly as one who still tended to the needs of others. He offered them peace, time and time again, trying to quell their fears. He spoke their names tenderly; he walked with them, explained scripture for them, forgave them and fed them. All this and more, he did simply. No fanfare, no victory parades – just Jesus being Jesus.

So, as we move through these Easter days in challenging times, when so much seems lost to us, let us give thanks for the gift of faith that assures us that the hope and joy of the resurrection remain. Jesus is truly with us, offering us his peace, calming our fears, speaking our names tenderly, walking with us, teaching us, forgiving us, and feeding us.

I look forward to the day when our parish family can gather together again, with all the glory and splendor that make our celebrations so joyful. Until then, simply knowing that Jesus is risen is enough.

Jesus is risen. Alleluia!  
Jude Pickel

# LITURGY BYTES

## Words of the Mass



As most of us have been experiencing Mass of late via live streaming, YouTube or on TV, I started thinking about how all this technology impacts the liturgy. Actually, the question goes beyond having screens in our churches or using iPads instead of sacred books. No matter where technology takes us, and no matter how we use it to make our preparation and celebration of the liturgy better, the most basic principle about liturgy never changes. Liturgy is a celebration of the Paschal Mystery---our greatest prayer.

Over the years, we have learned that the rituals surrounding our response to Jesus' command at the Last Supper, "Do this in remembrance of me," have changed. Just to give one example, the earliest celebrations took place within a sacred meal in the home. These "celebrations of the breaking of the bread" were taking place in household churches. Much later, the four-fold structure, that we are familiar with, developed. This consisted of: Introduction, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist and Dismissal. Naturally, over the centuries abuses crept in, but in time they were all corrected. However, most importantly, the obedience to Jesus' command never changed and remains today. All of the faithful (you and me), along with our clergy, try to pray it well with great reverence and dignity. What is important, then and now, is that we PRAY it well to the best of our ability.

In recent years, beginning in 2011 (Advent), we saw a bit of change in the words to some of the prayers. This change affected both the priests and assembly. It was the implementation of the third edition of the Roman Missal. What was explained to us then, and should be understood by all today, is that this third edition adheres to the official Latin edition and includes more of the rich images and phrases not translated in the previous United States, English editions we were familiar with.

Over the next weeks, I would like to think about those prayers that are so familiar to each of us by venturing through the various parts of the Mass beginning with the ones that do not change and are contained in the "ordinary" parts of the Mass. These do not change even with the seasons or feasts. However, there are some choices that the Roman Missal does offer, so we do not always hear the exact same thing. You might notice that the greeting may be worded differently from time to time. The priests also may choose to do the traditional Penitential Rite or opt to do a sprinkling of holy water, and then at the time of the creed, it can be the Nicene or the Apostles' Creed. Because these texts are familiar to us, they might seem unimportant. Yet, they are the backbone of the Mass. We begin Mass by praying these familiar texts and, hopefully, through our prayers and reflections we come to appreciate more how God is calling us into His presence. Please think about that the next time you attend Mass!

In the weeks ahead, we will look in more detail at the texts we say over and over at Mass and try to think about the meaning they have for us as we gather to pray at Mass via computer or in person. Please look for more in next week's bulletin. In the meantime, be well, be healthy and have a blessed week.

~~~Michele Hahn

**WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE, WE BELIEVE**

# JOURNEY WITH THE POPE

“At times, it seems that everything comes up against a stone: the beauty of creation against the tragedy of sin; liberation from slavery against infidelity to the covenant; the promises of the prophets against the listless indifference of the people.

# THE

So, too, in the history of the Church and in our own personal history. It seems that the steps we take never take us to the goal. We can be tempted to think that dashed hope is the bleak law of life.

# HOPE of

Today, however, we see that our journey is not in vain; it does not come up against a tombstone. Why do you think that everything is hopeless, that no one can take away your own tombstones? Why do you give into resignation and failure?

# Easter

Easter is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. We, as Church, are built on Him, and even when we grow disheartened and tempted to judge everything in the light of our failures, He comes to make all things new, to overturn our every disappointment... The Risen Christ, the one who rolls back from our heart the heaviest of stones. So, let us first ask: What is the stone that I need to remove, what is its name?”

*Pope Francis*

*Thursday, April 16, 2020*

# PARISH OUTREACH



## Eat Simply

We would like to thank you for your support of our Eat Simply program. Parish Outreach received \$2,600 in donations which is used to assist families in our area who struggle, enabling them to provide food and other necessities for their households. On behalf of the hungry we serve each day, we thank you for participating in this special Lenten activity!

## Food Pantry

Next Saturday and Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, will be our monthly Food Drive for our Parish Outreach Pantry. The following items would be most helpful:



|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Macaroni & Cheese   | Tuna        |
| Boxed Rice/Potatoes | Mayonnaise  |
| Jelly               | Pasta Sauce |

Please don't forget to check expiration dates! It will greatly assist the volunteers who stack the pantry with your donated goods. Thank you!

## Catholic Health Services

### Links and Resources

Catholic Health Services - Latest Information on Coronavirus: [www.chsli.org/coronavirus-latest-catholic-health-services](http://www.chsli.org/coronavirus-latest-catholic-health-services)

Catholic Health Services – Careers: For those who may be currently unemployed, Catholic Health Services is hiring in all its facilities. Go to: [www.chsli.org/careers](http://www.chsli.org/careers)

Catholic Health Services - Social Media: Please follow Catholic Health Services on Facebook and Instagram for the latest information; both are updated several times daily.

Centers for Disease Control: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Nearly ALL of the CDC's COVID materials are available in other languages to print or download. At the top right of the CDC landing page, click on OTHER LANGUAGES to locate resources appropriate for your community.

Catholic Health Association: [www.chausa.org](http://www.chausa.org)

If you are tested for COVID-19, please provide correct name and contact information so health care providers can reach you for follow up. The CHAUSA reminds all that, it is safe and smart to see a doctor if you need one. You should not be asked about your immigration status unless applying for insurance.

The Catholic Health Association has some information to assuage fears:

[www.chausa.org/newsroom/social-media](http://www.chausa.org/newsroom/social-media)

# A PERSONAL MESSAGE

*As many of you know, my son Damien died suddenly of an aneurysm on March 30 at his home in Maine. In this time of social distancing, my family's loss is compounded by the fact that we are unable to be with his wife and younger daughter in Maine, and our plans for a celebration of his life and a farewell are on hold. But, two blessings stand out in the midst of all this. First, his older daughter, who was away at college in Oregon, came to stay with me five days before his death. Thankfully, she was not alone and far away when we got the news. And second, my family and I have been overwhelmed by the prayerful support we have been receiving during these days. You, my Holy Cross family, have been with me a long time, in good times and sad times, and I know now, as I've never known before, the power of prayer. Thank you, for the cards, the prayers, the love. Please keep the prayers coming.*

*With love and gratitude,*

*Jude Pickel*

## PARISH NEWS

### Online Prayer Pages



At this time, we would like to offer the opportunity for people to express their prayer intentions. Beginning this week, you can leave a message at the office at 631-265-2200 ext.122 or email your prayers to [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net)

Your intentions will be added to *Our 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 **Mother's Day Mass Remembrance** envelope (names of loved ones will appear in our Mother's Day bulletin). Next weekend in your packet there is an envelope for **Catholic Schools**. 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.



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