

# *The Parish of the Holy Cross*

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200

[www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset](https://www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset)

**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**

“I came  
so that they  
might have *life*  
and have it  
more *abundantly*.”

John 10:10



**Come and pray with us!**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 3, 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!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net

## Pastoral Team

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

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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, Francesco DiMartino, Ann Egan, Phil Graziose, Bob Grieco, Joseph Santamaria, Marlene Starr, Judy Viskupic

**Mass Intentions for the upcoming week:** Mon.-Neal & Concetta Romano; Tue.-Kathy Bolognese; Wed.-Eileen Sansone; Thu.-Henri-Robert Lamarque

**All Mother's Day Mass Remembrances will be prayed for next weekend, May 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>, at the 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook.**

**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 5<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Easter, May 10<sup>th</sup>:** Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

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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 # 7

*by Father Michael*

If there has ever been doubt in the power of the Spirit, all you need to do is look around and see the wondrous, holy, and life-giving moments that unfold even in the face of a pandemic. Last Sunday morning, I experienced another one of those moments.

At some point during the previous week, I had the idea of incorporating “Long and Winding Road” into last Sunday’s Mass. I thought there was a powerful connection between that classic Beatles’ hit and the story of the Road to Emmaus. Aside from the song itself, I wasn’t sure where or how it would work. I tried to make a few dry run videos during the week by myself, but it just didn’t seem to be working. I didn’t want it to come across as a gimmick or overly sentimental, but I still thought it could work. It wasn’t until Sunday morning when I was running my ideas past Brian and Vincent that it started to come together.

We finally had the concept, but then we had to make the technology work. It was about 11:15, and we kept hitting one cyber roadblock after another. It didn’t seem like it could be done. Then at about 11:28, the proclamation came from the “Wizards of Gadgets” (Brian and Vincent), “We can do this live.” It would take a final few minutes to work out the details, so that’s when I posted my message that we were having technical difficulties. With that, the three of us headed down the driveway. One was holding a phone to play the song from the internet, the other was holding a portable bluetooth speaker, and I was holding two phones: one as a camera and one as a stopwatch to get the timing right. We hit the right buttons, and the three of us (along with all our viewers) were on our way up the hill. My own experience and my sense from the comments I received, is that it was a moment of holiness. A random idea, some necessary know-how, and God’s grace all came together to create a moment of prayer. If that were the typical Third Sunday of Easter, we would have had a nice Mass, but none of this would have happened.

I hope you are having experiences like this in your own life. I pray that you have had moments of God coming into your life and either gently or powerfully reminding you that you are not alone. I know watching the news can be overwhelming. But, it is neat to see when they run stories about healthcare workers making heroic efforts to show compassionate care to their patients or parents who are making equally heroic efforts to provide for their families. God’s Spirit will continue to overcome obstacles to bring joy, hope and comfort. Remain strong, we are on the road back, and soon enough we will be together to continue to celebrate God’s gifts.

# 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!*

## In Memory of...



Roseann Cousin  
Rita Rammelkamp

Dennis Imbesi  
Carmen Rodriguez

Joan Kranz  
Dorothy Sclafani

James Lynch  
Charles Zammit

*We pray for these Holy Cross parishioners who died in April. May they rest in peace, and may their loved ones be consoled.*

## Online Prayer Pages

At this time, we would like to offer the opportunity for people to express their prayer intentions. 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

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). This 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 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 at 631-265-2200 x110.

# Mary, Mother of the Church



On Friday, May 1, the bishops of the United States, in coordination with the bishops of Canada, consecrated the two nations to the care of our Blessed Mother, under the title “Mary, Mother of the Church.” In the words of Archbishop Jose Gomez, leader of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “This will give the Church the occasion to pray for Our Lady’s continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell, and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus.”

The United States has a long history of turning to Mary in a special way. In 1792, Bishop John Carroll, the first Catholic bishop in the United States, consecrated our country to Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception, and in 1846, under this title, she was named patroness of the United States. Construction was completed on the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC in 1959, and the shrine was given the designation of minor basilica by St. Pope John Paul II in 1990.

Throughout the entire Catholic world, not just in the United States, Mary is honored as the saint above all saints. So it is appropriate that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is calling on Catholics to unite with believers around the world and ask for Mary’s intercession in combating the Covid-19 virus. He has written two new prayers to Mary with specific intentions regarding the pandemic, and is asking all Catholics to recite the Rosary during the month of May, ending their prayer with one of these new prayers. (See Pope Francis’ prayers printed in this bulletin.) In his statement made on April 25, Pope Francis said, “Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary, our Mother, will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial.”

In asking us to turn to Mary now, Pope Francis points out that such prayers acknowledge our unique relationship with Mary. When Jesus was dying on the cross, the Gospel of John tells us that Jesus looked at Mary and at the disciple whom he loved, and said, “Woman, behold your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” (John 19:26,27) The beloved disciple represents all of us – Jesus was giving his mother to us all.

And so, just as Mary interceded with Jesus and advocated for the newlyweds at Cana who had run out of wine, Mary continues to intercede for her children today. In the words of one of the Pope’s new prayers, “We know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.” Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

*Jude Pickel*

# LITURGY BYTES



## Words of the Mass (Part 2 – The Gloria)

*Glory to God in the highest – we sing out with great joy this acclamation each week. Do you realize when this prayer is missing from Mass? (during Advent and Lent)*

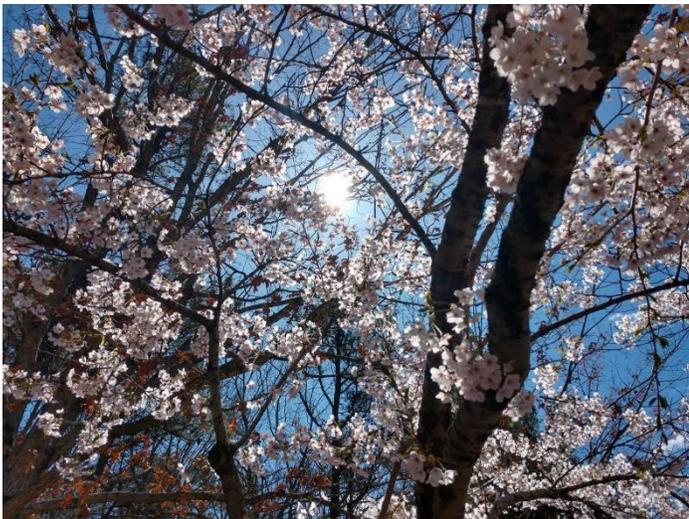
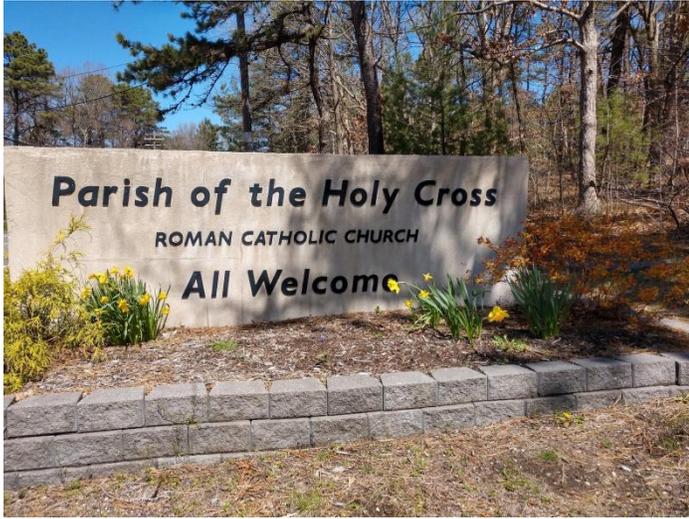
This beautiful hymn of praise enables us to give God thanks for His great glory. God has dealt with us in wondrous ways.

We first experience His love, mercy and forgiveness at the very beginning of each Mass and then again in this prayer with the words “you take away the sins of the world.” For all of this we glorify God! Shortly, we soon know that we will experience Jesus’ self-giving love to us through the reception of Holy Communion. As the words pour forth from our lips, we pray and realize that all of these actions are through the Holy Spirit whose wisdom dwells within each of us. Finally, we hear the words that open our hearts to the workings of the Trinity showing us God’s glory. Even though we cannot limit God’s glory just to our own experiences, we need to welcome the immensity and mystery of our God into our lives. What better prayer than the Gloria to inspire us to REJOICE!!

The next time at Mass, think a little about the words to this beautiful and joyful prayer of celebration. Have a blessed week and be safe!!!

*Michele Hahn, Pastoral Associate*

# SOME PICTURES TO ENJOY!



Pat Saccone, a Holy Cross parishioner, shared these photos she took of Holy Cross on a sunny day in April.

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Job Opportunities at Catholic Charities:

For many who have lost their jobs, this may be an opportunity to find employment. Many positions are part-time, although there are some full-time positions. To apply for a position, please send your resume, cover letter and salary requirements.

**By mail:** Catholic Charities Human Resources Dept.  
90 Cherry Lane  
Hicksville, NY 11801

**By FAX:** 516-733-7038 or **By email:** [jobs@CatholicCharities.cc](mailto:jobs@CatholicCharities.cc)

Include the full JOB TITLE for which you are applying in the cover letter, FAX cover sheet, or email subject line.

Visit the website at [www.CatholicCharities.cc/careers](http://www.CatholicCharities.cc/careers) for updates and the listing of available positions.

## 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 Letter to the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese of Rockville Centre  
From Bishop John O. Barres  
Third Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2020**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter, the spread of COVID-19, in our Diocese is touching every one of you in one way or another. Nearly everyone has lost a loved one or a friend and it is certainly affecting how we go about our daily lives. I am particularly moved by a brief passage from the first reading this Sunday, from the Acts of the Apostles (2:14, 22-33):

*“I saw the Lord ever before me,  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.  
Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;  
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,  
because you will not abandon my soul...”*

The Diocese of Rockville Centre is responding to the needs of Long Islanders both physically and spiritually, in a multitude of ways. One important element I would like to highlight in our Catholic community’s frontline response to the coronavirus pandemic is our Catholic Home Care.

Part of the Catholic Health Services of Long Island, Catholic Home Care is working harder than ever during this crisis. On most days, it now serves more than 3,000 patients in their own homes. An increasing percentage of these visits are related to COVID-19 illness. As you can imagine, Catholic Home Care clinicians are operating under extraordinary circumstances as they perform the necessary visiting nurse calls; physical and occupational therapy visits; medical social services counseling sessions; and home health aide services in patients’ homes. Despite the challenges, the 650 dedicated professionals and support staff of the Catholic Home Care team are working seven days a week to ensure every patient’s home care needs are met.

Moreover, Catholic Home Care is innovating through the pandemic crisis to expand care through its Telehealth Program. Telehealth services are staffed by specially-trained clinicians, and patients are provided with telemonitoring devices to monitor their health multiple times each day. Through Telehealth services, Catholic Home Care professionals partner with patients and their caregivers to take vitals such as a patient’s heart rate, blood pressure, weight and oxygen saturation levels. This data is shared in real time with Catholic Home Care so that clinicians can provide enhanced feedback and services that meet the patient’s day-to-day needs. Catholic Home Care’s Telehealth Program increases communication between patients, caregivers and clinicians. Telehealth keeps physicians better informed about patient progress and also educates patients to better understand and self-manage their health and wellness. It is just one of the ways Catholic Home Care is evolving to better meet patient needs in the home.

Donor support helps enable Catholic Home Care to perform the essential work of visiting and communicating with increasing numbers of patients, whether on site in the home or through expanding Telehealth services. If you would like to make a contribution of any size to support this work, please visit the [Catholic Home Care giving page](#). If you think home care services could benefit you or a loved one please contact (631) 465-6830.

You are invited to participate in the daily Mass and other spiritual programming on the Catholic Faith Network (CFN), the national television network based here in our own Diocese. A complete programming schedule is available at [www.CFNtv.org](http://www.CFNtv.org). Many parishes are also offering video streamed Masses and other devotions online. Check your parish web site for availability. Our prayer for you this week is that the risen Lord will watch over all of us during these challenging times and protect the clinicians and support staff of Catholic Home Care as they care for their patients. If you are able, I implore you to support Catholic Home Care and your parish with your prayers and with your philanthropic gifts. Please know that you and your family are remembered in my daily prayers and Masses.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

# PRAYER TO MARY

O Mary,

You shine continuously on our journey  
as a sign of salvation and hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at the foot of the cross,  
were united with Jesus' suffering,  
and persevered in your faith.

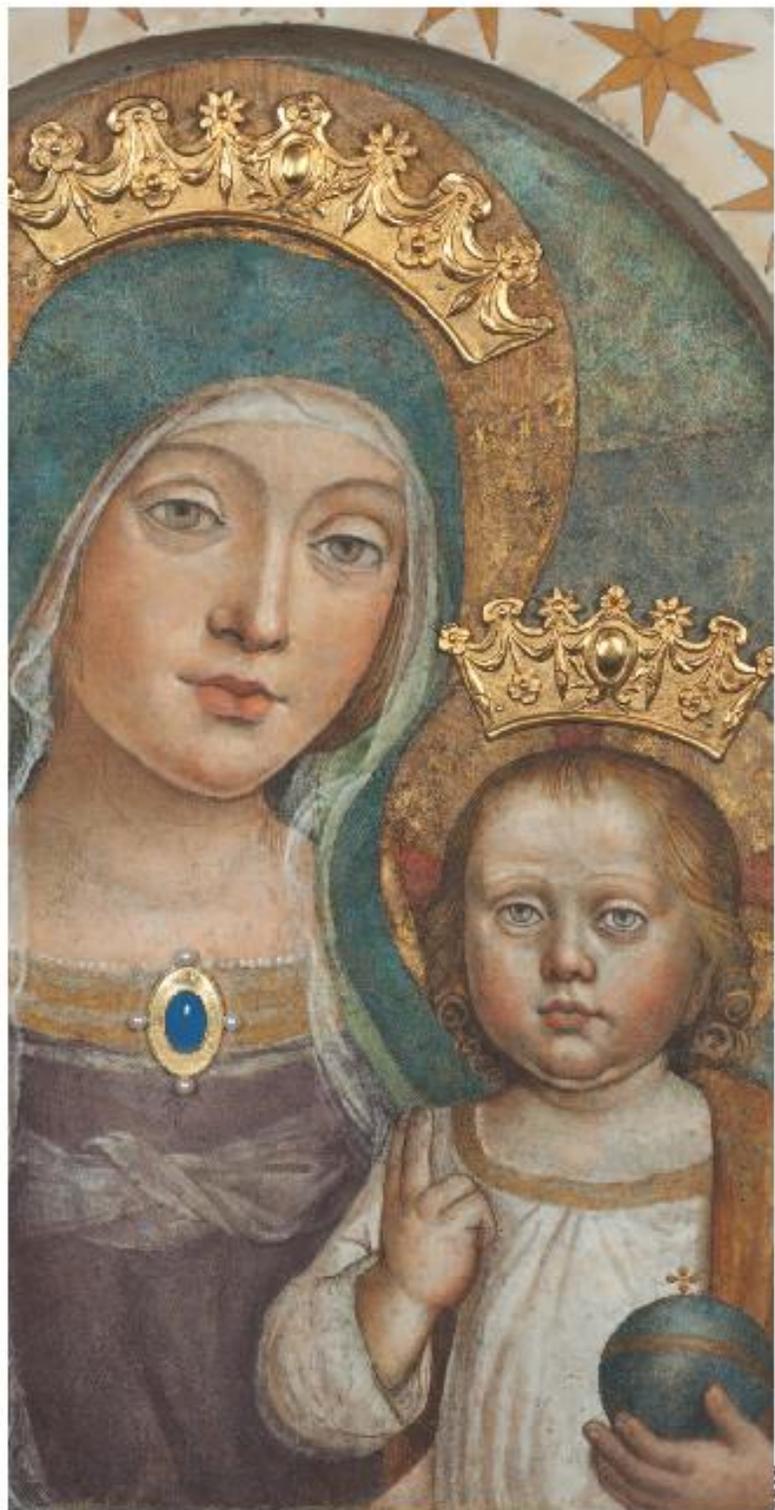
"Protectress of the Roman people,"  
you know our needs,  
and we know that you will provide,  
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,  
joy and celebration may return  
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father  
and to do what Jesus tells us.  
For he took upon himself our suffering,  
and burdened himself with our sorrows  
to bring us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.



## A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabbrica di San Pietro M. Falconi.

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.*

*Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis*

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS

# SOMETHING TO PONDER

This interesting set of facts was found on Facebook, and it is something to think about....

The official lockdown started March 23 and will likely end May 1 st. That is EXACTLY 40 days.

The Latin root of the word "quarantine" is "forty."

So what does the Bible say about 40?

The flood lasted 40 days.

40 years Moses fled Egypt.

40 days Moses stayed on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments.

Exodus lasted 40 years.

Jesus fasted for 40 days.

40 days for a woman to rest after giving birth.

Optimum number of weeks for human gestation is 40.

A group of theologians thinks the number 40 represents "change." It is the time of preparing a person, or people, to make a fundamental change.

Something will happen after these 40 days. Just believe and pray. Remember, whenever the number 40 appears in the Bible, there is a "change."

Please know that during this "quarantine" rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air is becoming cleaner because of less pollution, there is less theft and murder, healing is happening, and most importantly, people are turning to Christ. The Earth is at rest for the first time in many years and hearts are truly transforming.

Remember, we are in the year 2020, and  $20 + 20 = 40$ .

Also, 2020 is the year of the United States Census. Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born during a census.

Lastly, 2020 is perfect vision. May our sight focus on the Lord and living according to His perfect vision for us, knowing He holds us in the palm of His hand.

**The Number 40**



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