

NOTRE DAME PARISH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.



“Dwelling place” is no “place” at all unless it means being in the intimate presence of God, or better yet, being at the bosom of the Father. Ascended life means with God, with Jesus, sharing in their intimate bond, and

all that intimacy entails. Where Jesus is, there will we be (John 14:3).

How are you cultivating intimacy with the Lord during this time of social distancing?

THE MANSIONS OF THE LORD

To fallen soldiers let us sing,
Where no rockets fly nor bullets wing,
Our broken brothers let us bring
To the Mansions of the Lord

No more weeping,
No more fight,
No friends bleeding through the night,
Just Divine embrace,
Eternal light,
In the Mansions of the Lord

Where no mothers cry
And no children weep,
We shall stand and guard
Though the angels sleep,
Oh, through the ages let us keep
The Mansions of the Lord

*Lyrics from a hymn sung in the movie
We Were Soldiers*

Oremus – Let Us Pray

- For the homeless who have no earthly dwelling place
- For families distanced on this Mother's Day
- For mothers, living and deceased, married or single
- For an end to the COVID-19 pandemic
- For health workers and those in essential services
- For prudence and charity in observing the restrictions of health professionals
- For the preservation of parishes and schools threatened by lack of funds and tuition
- For Kathy Brennan recovering from a fall, for Pat McDonald, and all the sick
- For deacons, transitional and permanent

When Can We Return to the Sacraments?

As every day and week passes, parishioners and others ask me this question. My answer: Be patient, understanding, and safe.

The five bishops of Indiana have been consulting with the governor's office. On Thursday, May 7, Bishop McClory held a webinar with all the priests of the Diocese of Gary. There we were presented with strategies for the gradual reopening of public liturgies. It will go in stages. And it may differ from parish to parish according to circumstances.

Needless to say, the procedures will be stringent, unsettling, and at the beginning, exclusive.

The first goal is to restart

weekend liturgies on Pentecost, May 30-31. The existing norms will remain in force: social distancing, frequent sanitation of surfaces and hands in church, all ministers and worshipers in masks.

On May 30-31, only pre-determined members of the parish may attend Mass. Pew cards and missalettes will no longer be available. No Masses will be open to walk-in attendance.

In the meantime, my staff and I will be measuring and marking off pew spaces. The six-foot distancing norm translates into 36 square feet. Fortunately we have a large church, but we



We want to get this right, not rushed. Don't open if you're not ready.

--Bishop McClory

Continued on page 3

THE MATERNAL GOD: Jesus As Mother



Blessed Julian of Norwich

The mother can give her child to suck of her milk, but our precious Mother Jesus can feed us with himself, and does, most courteously and most tenderly, with the blessed sacrament, which is the precious food of true life ... The mother can lay her child tenderly to her breast, but our tender Mother Jesus can lead us easily into his blessed breast through his sweet open side, and show us there a part of the godhead and of the joys of heaven, with inner certainty of endless bliss ... This fair lovely word 'mother' is so sweet and so kind in itself that it cannot truly be said of anyone or to anyone except of him and to him who is the true Mother of life and of all things. To the property of motherhood belong nature, love, wisdom, and knowledge, and this is God.

Continued from page 2

TO MOMS EVERYWHERE

must determine the maximum number of worshipers who can safely attend during this pandemic. As the weeks progress, we will increase the number of people allowed to attend.

We were handed many pages of federal, state, and diocesan requirements and best practices to digest. I and my councils will use the coming weeks to fit these norms to our own situation. We must also retrain all ministers so that they are fully aware of the new (hopefully temporary!) protocols.

It is highly recommended that parishioners over 65, especially those with underlying medical conditions, continue to shelter in place for the time being.

The Mass will not be what it was. No entrance processional. Departure of worshipers will be pew by pew. Only one cantor and organist. I will keep you informed as we work out the adoption of these practices and how they might affect you.

Please do not abandon the Lord during these times. Pray for our parish and our school that we might continue our ministries down the road.

Father Keith & Rocco



To the Moms who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.

To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.

To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.

To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.

To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.

To those remembering Moms no longer with us.

To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for...

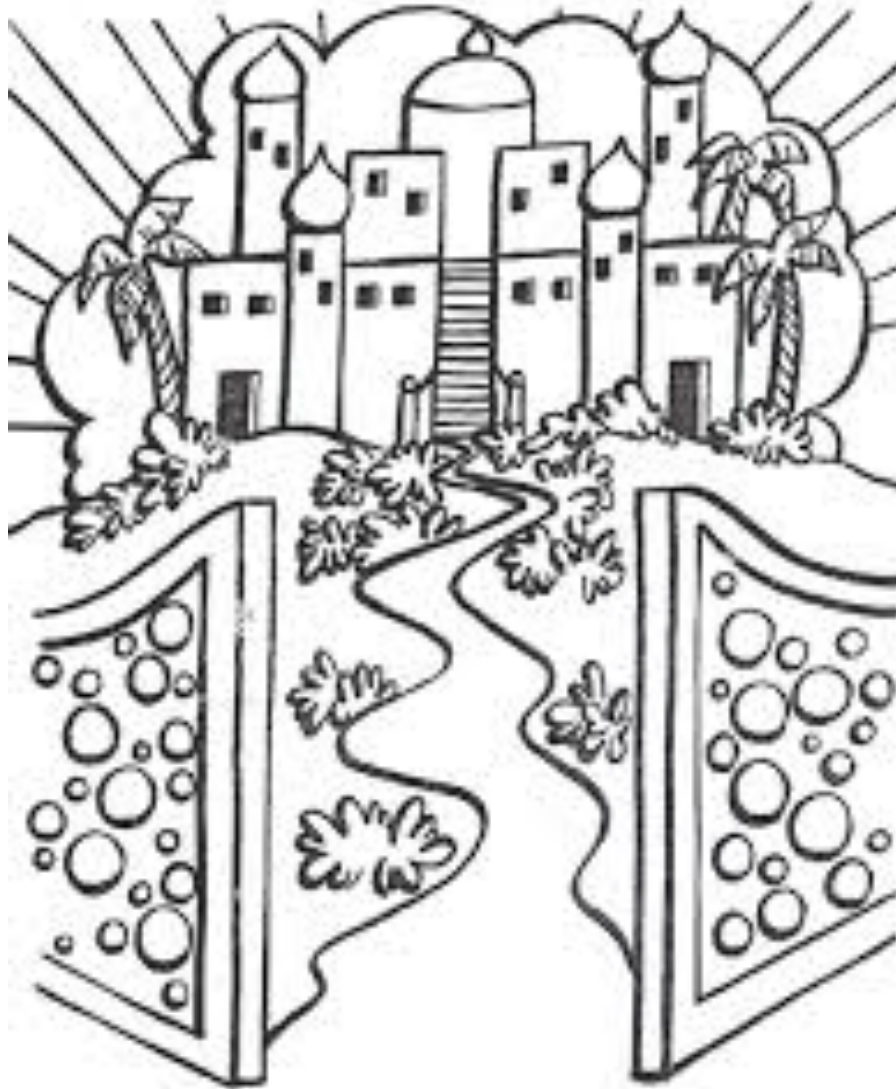
Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood, wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.

-

Hannah Kardon, Pastor at Elston Avenue United Methodist Church

CHILDREN'S COLORING PAGE

JESUS SAID, "MY FATHER'S
HOUSE HAS MANY DWELLING
PLACES."



John saw a new heaven and a new earth. He heard Jesus say,
"I am coming soon!" John answered, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."