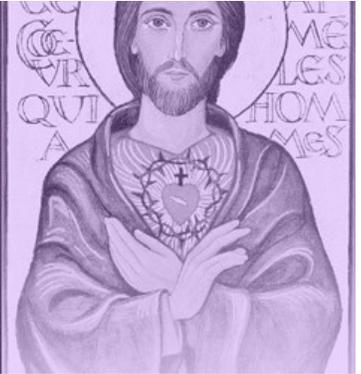


# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## March 29, 2020

*“During this Lent,  
let us all ask the Lord:  
Make our hearts like yours.”*

*-Pope Francis*



### “ HOMILY FOR THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT”

*Dear Friends:*

*In this a very difficult time of the Coronavirus, we are troubled about many things. We are in need of many things. We need reassurance, we need peace, we need hope. We need healing. Healing especially for those who are ill, but also healing for us who are filled with doubt and fear.*

*In the Gospel on Sunday, Jesus heals a blind man (John 9:1-41). It is a story remarkable in its detail. Again, we see Jesus as the healer. He also performs the healing on a Sabbath. This is not only an act of healing, but an act of boldness in terms of the Jewish authorities. In the Gospel, we see the Pharisees are filled with rage and anger at this act of defiance.*

*As with many Gospel moments, it is a confrontation. But it is also a teaching moment. Our Lord wants them and us to see how the priority of healing in His mission is higher than faithfulness to the Sabbath. The need for healing is more important than the need to be faithful to a rule of religious practice. This shows us that Jesus Christ wants us to know Him as a healer. With confidence, we can look to Christ for healing.*

*As I said before, we need healing today. So many of our brothers and sisters need physical healing, today and tomorrow. We need mental healing, to ask the Lord to grant us freedom from anxiety and fear. We need spiritual healing to help us turn away from sin and rely on our faith. These are the moments that Jesus Christ wants so much to help us. We pray to be open to the Lord's healing, and turn to the gift of faith that is our source of strength.*

*Fr. Wilson*

**UPDATE ON THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK** - As we are currently facing a serious health crisis with respect to the Corona Virus, we need to take the necessary precautions as outlined by our public health officials to slow down the spread of this virus.

In light of the serious health risks to vulnerable populations, and mindful of the instructions of medical professionals regarding the Corona Virus, the Archdiocese of New York has instructed us to cancel weekday and Sunday Masses until further notice. Our Religious Education Program, retreats and events will be cancelled until April 20, 2020. Stations of the Cross will also be cancelled until further notice. Immaculate Conception Church will however be open for private prayer. Holy Week and Easter Liturgies will be cancelled.

With respect to the Sunday weekly offering envelopes, I understand that troubling times make financial commitments difficult. However if you wish to make a donation, please feel free to drop it off at the Rectory (4 Lavelle Road) in the mail slot which is located on the lower right side of the door or at the parish office or place it in the mail. As always, I thank you for your steadfast support.

The one thing everyone can do in a crisis is pray. Let us keep one another in our prayers and especially pray for the doctors, nurses and caregivers who are working tirelessly to help those suffering from the corona virus

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH :** Gerhard Herron, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Danny Hagerty, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Joseph Licurse, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Ralph Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Arietta Carroll, Cecilia Cummings, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marjorie Arni, Teal Burns, Jane Bly, Jennifer Boice, Nora Miller, Allen McPeck, Diana LaCurto, Genevieve Minischetti, Anita Nichols, Kathleen McGuire, Loretta Heller, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Christine Darby, Peter Hill, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Margaret and Roger Gregoire, Kyleigh Cummings, Caroline McEnroe, Kristin Paraszti, Patty Cassidy, Stephen Bida, John McKee, Kathleen Herron and Roseann Roux

**SUNDAY MASS** - Please see your Television Guide for the Sunday Masses being offered on EWTN, Catholic Faith Network.etc.

**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** - When you are unable to receive Communion:

**My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and  
unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.**

**4 REASONS TO BE HOPEFUL RIGHT NOW** - It's hard not to worry these days with reports of viruses and financial concerns. Yet we in God's family have more reasons to be hopeful no matter how uncertain the world...

*God our Father, knows what we need* - "If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him" (*Matthew 7:11*). He will take care of us when we trust Him.

*He can work miracles when we ask* - "Know that the Lord works wonders for the faithful; the Lord hears when I call out" (*Psalms 4:4*). "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear ... for it is the Lord our God who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you." (*Deuteronomy 31:6*). Just when life looks bleak, God can surprise us.

*He will never abandon us* - "You, Lord, are near to all who call upon you... (*Psalms 145-18*). Know that He is always close.

*Worrying won't do any good* - "Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your lifespan? If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you anxious about the rest?" (*Luke 12:25*). Don't waste energy on worrying about what is beyond your control. Enjoy your blessings.

**ROSE THRIFT SHOP** - Due to the Coronavirus, the Rose Thrift Shop will be closed until further notice.

**2020 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL** - As of March 20<sup>th</sup>, our parish has received **\$14,945.00** in pledges/gifts from **42** families. Our parish goal is **\$42,000**. I sincerely ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time donation in an amount you can afford. Not all offerings are equal, but all sacrifices are..

**PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:** . Timothy Walsh, Joshua O'Hara, Connor Washburn, Sam Kent, Jordan Paraszti, Gavin Carroll, Richard C. Belliveau, Jimmy Darnell, Mike Mazza, Nathan Tong, Mark Hall and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** - For the weeks of March 15-16 and March 21-22 2020, we collected \$1,465.00 in our Regular Sunday Collection and \$330.00 for the Bishops Overseas Appeal. I thank you for your financial support during this difficult time.