



The Parish Community of

**SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA**

427 Stanhope Road, Sparta New Jersey 07871

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Parish Office: 973-729-1682 Fax: 973-729-0702

*Love God, Love others and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ*

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Trustees



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**APRIL 5, 2020**

*And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee"*

(Matthew 21:10-11)

### CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

**Sunday Mass will be live streaming on our Facebook page at 9:30 AM.**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintkaterispartanj>

We will continue to keep you updated through our website, E-mails, Flocknotes and Facebook.

To join Flocknotes (text message app) text "stkateri" to 84576.

OFFICE HOURS - At this time please call or e-mail the parish.

8:30 am – 3:00 pm : Monday – Thursday

8:30 am – 12:00 nn : Fridays (closed during summer)

Religious Edu. / Youth Min. 973 -729-0489

9:00 am – 3:00 pm: Tue. – Thurs. and by appointment

## WHO AM I, BEFORE MY LORD?



THIS week begins with the festive procession with olive branches: the entire populace welcomes Jesus. The children and young people sing, praising Jesus.

But this week continues in the mystery of Jesus' death and his resurrection. We have just listened to the Passion of our Lord. We might well ask ourselves just one question: Who am I? Who am I, before my Lord? Who am I, before Jesus who enters Jerusalem amid the enthusiasm of the crowd? Am I ready to express my joy, to praise him? Or do I stand back? Who am I, before the suffering Jesus?

We have just heard many, many names. The group of leaders, some priests, the Pharisees, the teachers of the law, who had decided to kill Jesus. They were waiting for the chance to arrest him. Am I like one of them?

We have also heard another name: Judas. Thirty pieces of silver. Am I like Judas? We have heard other names too: the disciples who understand nothing, who fell asleep while the Lord was suffering. Has my life fallen asleep? Or am I like the disciples, who did not realize what it was to betray Jesus? Or like that other disciple, who wanted to settle everything with a sword? Am I like them? Am I like Judas, who feigns loved and then kisses the Master in order to hand him over, to betray him? Am I a traitor? Am I like those people in power who hastily summon a tribunal and seek false witnesses: am I like them? And when I do these things, if I do them, do I think that in this way I am saving the people?

Am I like Pilate? When I see that the situation is difficult, do I wash my hands and dodge my responsibility, allowing people to be condemned – or condemning them myself?

Am I like that crowd which was not sure whether they were at a religious meeting, a trial or a circus, and then chose Barabbas? For them it was all the same: it was more entertaining to humiliate Jesus.

Am I like the soldiers who strike the Lord, spit on him, insult him, who find entertainment in humiliating him?

Am I like the Cyrenean, who was returning from work, weary, yet was good enough to help the Lord carry his cross?

Am I like those who walked by the cross and mocked Jesus: "He was so courageous! Let him come down from the cross and then we will believe in him!" Mocking Jesus....

Am I like those fearless women, and like the mother of Jesus, who were there, and who suffered in silence?

Am I like Joseph, the hidden disciple, who lovingly carries the body of Jesus to give it burial?

Am I like the two Marys, who remained at the Tomb, weeping and praying?

Am I like those leaders who went the next day to Pilate and said, "Look, this man said that he was going to rise again. We cannot let another fraud take place!", and who block life, who block the tomb, in order to maintain doctrine, lest life come forth?

Where is my heart? Which of these persons am I like? May this question remain with us throughout the entire week. (Pope Francis reflection)

## † MASSES FOR THE WEEK †

Fr. Vidal will pray for your loved ones at a private Mass each day.

### Monday, April 6: Monday of Holy Week

8:15 AM Doctor, Nurses, Hospital Staff, Caregivers, Law Enforcement and all Rescue Workers

### Tuesday, April 7: Tuesday of Holy Week

8:15 AM All Deceased who have passed from Coronavirus

### Wednesday, April 8: Wednesday of Holy Week

8:15 AM For those who are sick and in quarantine

### Thursday, April 9: Holy Thursday

5:00 PM Mass People of the Parish

6:00-8:00 PM Adoration

### Friday, April 10: Friday of the Passion of the Lord

3:00 PM

### Saturday, April 11: Easter Vigil

7:00 PM Benefactors of Saint Kateri who have been so generous

### Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday Of The Resurrection Of The Lord

9:30 AM Karen Rendina, Estelle DeBella, Vidal Gonzales, Sr.



**Prayers for the Sick:** We pray for Christopher Robak, Deacon Drew Calandriello, Margie Frazier, Al Saveriano, Henry Schubert, Liliana DiGangi, Tom Booth, Jason Duncan, Patrick Dillsworth, Brian Smith, Chris Auger, Margaret Brennan, Brittany Johnson.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11

Tue. Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wed. Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25

Thur. Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Fri. Is 52:13—53:12/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Sat. Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ex 14:15—15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/

Rom 6:3-11/Mt 28:1-10

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 (42) or Mt 28:1-10 (41)

## Active Military Prayer List

Please pray for our Active Military:

Daniel Joseph (D.J.) Duguay, US Air Force; James Schoch, Infantry Second Lieutenant; Frank Cutrone, Second Lieutenant, US Army; LtCol Dan Murphy, US Marine Corps; LTJG Katherine Garza, US Navy; LTJG David Garza, US Navy; LCpl Josh Jackson US Marine Corps

May God keep them safe and protect them from all harm.

If you would like a love ones name added to the prayer list for the military, please call the parish center. 973-729-1682.

## Mass Online

We have worked hard to help you have access to watch Mass. **We are live streaming Daily Mass at 9:00AM and Sunday Mass at 9:30AM.** Visit our Facebook page to celebrate Mass.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintkaterispartanj>

**Invite your friends to join in. All are welcome.**

## Your Sunday offering

And please also remember, even though our church is quiet, facility utilities do not go away. Needs of our community, ministry, and families still remain as well. We can not meet such needs without your help. As we are not able to serve in large groups or in person, our gifts of prayer and treasure are ever so important, even crucial to get us through this difficult time.

If you haven't already, please consider setting up a recurring gift online. It takes two simple steps and the rest is seamless, automatic, and very flexible. Please visit our donation page at:

[www.saintkateri.org/electronic-giving](http://www.saintkateri.org/electronic-giving)

You can also continue to mail your gifts and envelopes to the parish at: 427 stanhope Rd, Sparta, NJ 07871

May God bless you and your loved ones.

## Faith Formation Corner

**Saint Kateri Faith Formation classes are cancelled/suspended until further notice.**

We have sent out online lessons and activities in order for families to continue learning about our Faith at home.

Please know that all First Communions and Confirmations are also suspended. Please read the details about this in the Bishop's letter in this bulletin or on our website.  
<https://www.patersondiocese.org/coronavirus>

Please refer to the section labeled: **"HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR PASTORAL LIFE IN THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON"**.

For all other questions about Faith Formation please contact Cheryl Wallace, DRE [cherylw@saintkateri.org](mailto:cherylw@saintkateri.org)

## Liturgical and Church Access Regulations

In order to both provide for the safety of the faithful and to attend to your well-being,

**I am directing that all of our church buildings and chapels be closed until further notice.** Government health officials have indicated that the next two weeks will usher in a virulent spread of the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, Church buildings are not to be open for any period of time during the day or night. Access to all parish buildings is to be strictly limited to staff that are essential for onsite requirements relating to maintenance of the buildings that cannot be delayed. These norms apply to religious houses in the Diocese of Paterson as well.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D.  
Bishop of Paterson

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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.*

Prayer from Paterson Diocese website.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

March 2020	Weekly	Month of March
Regular Collections		\$,31,904
Week Ending 03/01/2020		
Regular Collection	\$8,724	
Maintenance Collection	1,218	
Ash Wednesday	1,126	
Week Ending 03/08/2020		
Regular Collection	\$9,736	
Project Faith	854	
Maintenance	57	
Easter Flowers & Ash Wed.	205	
Week Ending 03/15/2020		
Regular Collection	\$8,176	
Maintenance	\$465	
Easter Flowers + Ash Wed.	\$20	
Week Ending 03/22/2020		
Regular Collection	\$1,115	
Maintenance	50	
Week Ending 03/29/2020		
Regular Collection	\$2,802	
Budget Monthly Expenses (including Loan Payments)		\$62,500
Month Net Income/(Expense) as of 03/08/2020		(\$30,596)

We are thankful for all those parishioners who contribute to the financial support of the church and who take stewardship so seriously.

**Dear Parishioners,**

I hope and pray that you are all doing well.

A week ago we received Bishop Arthur's letter regarding the observance of Holy Week, the Paschal Triduum, and Easter of this year. As we all know, Holy Week begins with Palm (Passion) Sunday on April 5. The Sacred Triduum follows with Holy Thursday on April 9; Good Friday on April 10; Holy Saturday on April 11 and Easter Sunday on April 12.

The following is the schedule:

**On April 5, Passion (Palm) Sunday:** There will be **NO** blessing and distribution of the palm branches this coming Sunday. There will be **NO** Palm Branches in the vestibule for you to pick up. All palm branches will be blessed and distributed at a later time. We will notify you when the time comes. Live streaming Mass will be celebrated privately this Sunday at 9:30 in the morning, as we celebrate the Passion of the Lord.

**On April 9, Holy Thursday:** There will be no 9:00 am Mass. Instead, I will celebrate the live streaming mass at 5:00 in the afternoon privately. The procession to the place of adoration is omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is not available for public adoration. It will be live streamed from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Church will be closed and not available for visitation. Please stay home and pray.

**On April 10, Good Friday:** NO MASS. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is celebrated at 3pm, privately and it will be live streamed. There will be no veneration of the cross. Church will be closed that day.

**On April 11, Holy Saturday:** Church will be closed. There will be no Easter Food Blessing in the Church. I suggest that you gather as one family and together pray for the Blessing of Food for the first Easter Meal. Visit, Book of Blessings: Blessing of Food for the First Meal of Easter. ([www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=736](http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=736))

**On April 11, Easter Vigil and April 12, Easter Mass:** Church will be closed. The celebration of the Easter Vigil Mass will start at **7:00 pm** on Saturday, and mass will be celebrated at **9:30 am** on Easter Sunday privately. All are welcome to watch via our Facebook account through livestream.

In the midst of this pandemic crisis, let us continue praying to the Lord for his guidance and protections. I know, many of you are hungry for receiving Jesus in the celebration of the sacraments. Each one of you was looking forward to celebrating the Triumph of Jesus over sin and death, the Easter celebration, in our Church together with your whole family. However, due to unfortunate circumstances beyond our control, we have been told to close the church for our own safety.

But this doesn't mean that we, as faithful followers of Jesus, have to stop praying. *"We want to find ways to livestream the liturgies and help our faithful understand that it is Christ who blesses, not the priest," Bishop Nowakowski said. In addition, he said, "Our Lord is not restricted by the sacraments; he can come into our lives in these very trying circumstances in many ways."*

Let us show that we are united in prayer for deliverance from this pandemic. Many of you have come to our church, which is your second home and prayed, shared your feelings of helplessness, and turned to God. It's your spiritual home.

I would like to thank those who recently enrolled in our online giving this week. Also, thank you for those who mailed and dropped their contribution envelope for this past Sunday. Please, continue sending contribution envelopes for these coming weeks, or enroll in our online giving program. We have to continue paying our bills and staff who are working at home.

May God's light shine its brightest in such dark times as we celebrate His resurrection.

My deepest prayer for you all,

Fr. Vidal



## **Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry Urgently Needs your Help.**

The Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry urgently needs donations to meet increasing demand. Please remember your neighbors in need when you shop for your families.

Demand is up. During the corona virus event, Sparta Kiwanis members are no longer able to continue monthly collections at Stop & Shop, which yielded more than 15 full baskets of food and more than \$500 on a weekend collection.

Most needed are pasta & sauce, PB&J, mac& cheese, canned soup, canned tuna or chicken, meal-in-a-can (beef stew, ravioli, SpaghettiOs, beefaroni, etc), cereal, coffee/tea, canned veggies and fruit, kid-friendly snacks, including pudding and jello. The pantry can also use feminine hygiene products, shampoo & conditioner, diapers and pet food (smaller bags). If you come across toilet paper, hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes and can part with them, please do.

Please note: Also welcome are cash donations made out to the Sparta Ecumenical Food pantry - this enables the food pantry too, in most cases, buy food items at discounted prices.

Remember that many of the Pantry families have kids who are now at home all day, so consider including kid-friendly snacks and cereals and individually wrapped Easter candies!

Drop off at Sparta Presbyterian Church 32 Main St, Sparta, NJ 07871 during Pantry hours or at any other time.

Weds. 9- 3

Thurs. 9 - 12

Fri 9 - 1

Thanks in advance.

Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry President, Board Members, Sparta Ecumenical Churches, and Friends

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