

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. .

March 29, 2020 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent


MASS INTENTIONS
—OF THE WEEK—

Saturday, March 28

For Fay & Sam Confalone 25 years deceased *by Seiler Family*

Sunday, March 29

For Julia & Thomas Dugan *by Monteverde Family*
For Kathleen Goodman *by Stokes Family*

Saturday, April 4

For Rosa Perez-Vargas *by Lennon Family*

Sunday, April 5

For Olga Cass *by Rich & Marianne Nyman*
For Kyle Bremer *by Stokes Family*

ALL WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE RESCHEDULED



For the month of March

Sanctuary Lamp: In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone and Aeneas and Genevieve Corry *by Corry/Benardone family*

Mass Candles: In loving memory of Dorothy Totin Donohue and Marion Chambers *by Stokes family*

Altar Breads & Wine: Special Intention for Skoczylas Family

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

ALL MASSES, SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

WEEKLY COLLECTION

| Current Year | Last Year 2019 |
|------------------------|---|
| Supermarket Gift Cards | St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484 |

Please do not stop sending your weekly offering to the church (use faith direct or mail to the church). Your weekly offering is needed to keep our parish financially stable at this difficult situation.

FAITH DIRECT...

During Lent, we prepare ourselves through prayer and giving back to our parish. But, with busy lives and active families, it's easy to skip a weekly tithe when you are unable to attend Mass or are out of town. This Lent, I want to invite you in joining me and many others at St. Mark the Evangelist in setting up recurring eGiving though Faith Direct. Thanks to eGiving, your weekly offertory will be automatically taken care of, which saves you time and saves our parish money by eliminating all those unused offertory envelopes. Getting started is easy! Visit faith.direct/NJ484, Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,
Fr. Marcin

DUE TO CORONAVIRUS ALL MASSES IN THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Please check our parish website daily for an update look at the box with announcements. www.stmarksnj.org)

MY MASSES, THOUGH PRIVATE, WILL BE OFFERED FOR THE INTENTIONS (WEEKEND) LISTED IN OUR PARISH MASS BOOK. WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE RESCHEDULED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A MASS, OR IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN HELP YOU WITH, PLEASE BE IN TOUCH.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

This reading is a loving promise that the Lord will put His spirit into his people and will let them live.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Paul reminds the Romans that they are not people of the flesh but people of the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwells in them.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

In great detail, John tells the story of the raising of Lazarus to life. Upon learning of the death of Lazarus, his dear friend, Jesus goes to comfort Martha and Mary. After proclaiming, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and restores him to life.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,



Fifth SUNDAY IN LENT

During this difficult time we cannot get together for HOLY MASS but we cannot stop praying and I encourage you to watch mass online or on TV and receive Spiritual Communion. GOD IS BIGGER THAN THE CORONAVIRUS.

Today we still follow liturgical calendar and celebrate 5th Sunday of Lent. In today's Gospel when Jesus had finished praying he said, "Lazarus, come out!" Jesus says to each of us also, "Come out of your tomb, come out your bondage. Do not live in the darkness, live in the light. Do not live in fear, live in faith." When Lazarus came out of the tomb, Jesus then said, "Untie him and let him go."

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead physically in his body. He had been dead for four days. If Jesus can restore a body that had been in the tomb for four days and has begun to decompose he can certainly fix the brokenness and wounds of our lives. *Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even if he dies will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

JESUS IS ASKING US THE SAME: "DO YOU BELIEVE THIS? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I CAN FIX ALL THE BROKENNESS AND WOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I NOT ONLY OFFER YOU RESURRECTION IN THE FUTURE BUT ALSO THE FULLNESS OF LIFE NOW IN THE PRESENT?" JESUS PROCLAIMS THAT HE IS BOTH THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. HE PROMISES FUTURE RESURRECTION BUT ALSO INVITES US TO SHARE NOW IN THE FULLNESS OF HIS LIFE.

The resurrection of Lazarus is not just a promise about the future of each of us. It is also an invitation from Jesus to enter into the fullness of his life in the present, right now, and that life will continue in us after death.

Do we believe that Jesus calls us to enjoy the fullness of his life now? Do we believe that Jesus is now

calling us out of any tomb we may be in? Do we believe that even now Jesus is saying to us, "Be unbound and go free?"

How do we reach this freedom? How do we get out of our tombs? Martha and Mary sent a message to Jesus. We too have to send a message to Jesus and we do this by spending time with Jesus in prayer and sharing with him our wounds, hurts and anxieties.

That is the only way to the mature relationship with Jesus. Jesus received the message about Lazarus' illness he stayed where he was for two more days. We expect God to answer prayer in our time but sometimes God's time is different to ours. We may be tempted sometimes to despair and say God cannot do anything for me. This is like Martha in the Gospel who objected to the stone being removed. But Jesus replied, "Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" Jesus is constantly calling us to new life in him; to come forth from whatever is keeping us in bondage.

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE, WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME, EVEN IF HE DIES WILL LIVE, COME OUT, LAZARUS!"

Jesus is calling us. We are all Lazarus. He is calling us to come out of the darkness, and come into His Light. He is calling us to come out of the place of death and come into His Life. Let us ask ourselves today. Am I happy with myself? Am I comfortable with my life? Am I happy with my relationship with God?

We ask the Lord for the courage to walk towards the voice that is saying: Lazarus, Come out! And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?"

COVID-19

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity; that the people of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for

us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

PLENARY INDULGENCE

The Apostolic Penitentiary, through the authority of the Supreme Pontiff, has granted a Plenary Indulgence to all of those who are suffering from the coronavirus or those who are caring for those who are ill, and additionally to all those subject to quarantine during this time of grave difficulty. In order to obtain the Indulgence, which is the remission before God of guilt for sins already forgiven, the faithful are to observe the devotions and disposition outlined in the decree:

The Plenary Indulgence is granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.

Health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of

Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15: 13), will obtain the same gift of the Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions.

The Holy Father has provided this Plenary Indulgence in order for the suffering and those who selflessly labor in the care of the sick are united ever more closely with Christ the healer and reliant on the all-powerful and never failing mercy of God.

.PRAY DAILY.

.PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS FOR PROTECTION AND HELP.

O Mary, you always shine on 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, keeping your faith firm. You...know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of those of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



Richard Alvarez, Tony Atkins, James Barone, Bob & Jeff Cheripka, Daria Cremonini, Brittany Cicchino, Carol DeAlvandles, Trisha Drechsel. Ann Geary, Sue Geary, Heidi L., Daniel Huntz, Suzy Ladlee, Vincent Lai, Mary McArdle, Denise Niessing, Girard Nolte, Jr., Rosemarie Picarelli, Christopher Popp, Tim Popp, John S, Don & Joyce Schmitt, George and Ann Senftinger, Fredrick Senftinger, Special Intention, Christopher Zeliff

Every now and then we try to update our prayer list of names of the sick and special intentions. Please look over the list and if you requested prayers for a person please call the parish office to let us know if you wish to continue to be on this prayer list.