



St. Catharine

Roman Catholic Church

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Salesians of Don Bosco, Weekend Assistants

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 - 16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20
(for Ascension); otherwise Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28

Sunday: Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a;
or (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23;
Mt 28:16-20

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*"I will ask the Father, and he will give you . . .
the Spirit of truth."*

- John 14:16-17

Today's Readings

First Reading The people of Samaria accepted the word of God preached by Philip; they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:5-8,14-17).

Psalms Let all the earth cry out to God with joy (Psalm 66).

Second Reading Act with gentleness and reverence toward all, so that when you are maligned those who defame you will be the ones put to shame (1 Peter 3:15-18).

Gospel I will not leave you orphans, but will come to you (John 14:15-21).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass (c) 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

"What is the reason for your hope?" Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "Why do you hope?" Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit.

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Mission Statement

We, the parish community of St. Catharine, are dedicated to spreading the Good News by word and example. Nourished by the Eucharist, we seek to advance God's Kingdom by enriching spiritual life, increasing parishioner involvement, deepening commitment to social justice, fostering communication, and building community.

Coming Back

Hope everyone is staying well and keeping safe and I am definitely encouraging everyone to not deviate from good practices that we have been about for the past two months. If you listen to all the voices from the politicians, the medical people and the opinions offered by the general public you will hear a great deal of conflict. That is because as much as we want to return to a sense of "normalcy" no one exactly knows what that will look like and we don't know when it will be possible.

That, having been said, we did receive a set of complicated guidelines from the archdiocese on Monday May 11th. When we do indeed get back to public worship there will have to be a number of new provisions in place to insure health safety for all who attend. Like most aspects of society there will be phases to this proposal, the final stage being the return to public worship on Sundays. Even what we received is still being discussed and once we get closer to an implementation I will share them with you.

For now, as of this Sunday, May 17th we are allowed to open our church on a limited basis for individual prayer. This Sunday we will be open from 9am - 1pm for anyone who wants to pray in the church. For now, we will be open Monday-Thursday from 9am - 2pm and we will wipe down the church each day, with all of Friday to do a thorough cleaning in time for the livestream broadcast on the weekend.

I will keep you apprised of any changes in that schedule going forward. We would ask that you wear masks and if possible gloves as well and by all means keep social distancing at all times. Let us celebrate this development but not abuse it so that we keep one another safe. From the beginning of the outbreak of COVID 19, this is the ironic gift we have been asked to give to one another. That is, as a practicing, loving community we have been asked to stay apart for the safety of all. Our time of quarantine is not over, but there is a little light at the end of this tunnel. May we not do anything to hinder the progress of this movement.

I am so looking forward to seeing you and having Mass together.

This past Sunday was an amazing day at St. Catharine's. Recently, we have had to add a back-up driver in our delivery of food to St. Mary's in Jersey City. That is because we have had so much food donated that it no longer fit in one car. Last Sunday we sent down five cars full of groceries. All of that was in addition to monetary donations made either through our church or sent directly to them. I have never felt more proud of who we are as the giving outreach community we are. Thank you and I will talk to you soon.

Fr. Tom



Prayers for the Recently Deceased

Ronald Tellis, Richard Dolan, Joseph Dowling, Maria DeSensi
Richard Giella, Rose Lohsen and Michael Goff

Our parish community extends our deepest sympathy to each family on their loss.

While we are not celebrating mass publicly during this time, please be assured the mass intentions for the week are being celebrated privately.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 16

Mary K. DiGiacomo *req. Robert & Patricia Bernabeo*
John Fiorino *req. Fiorino & Duffy Family*

Sunday, May 17

Peter S. O'Brien *req. Bernadette C. O'Brien*
Joseph Giannelli *req. Women of Pandora Circle Prayer Group*
Michael DeGregorio *req. Joey & Family*
Richard Baudo *req. Jim & Marybeth Mueller*

Monday, May 18

All Parishioners
Patricia Flemming (5th Anniversary) *req. Eileen Skinner*

Tuesday, May 19

Elizabeth Fitzsimmons *req. Stephen & Aleece Nolan*
Peter A. Lavezzo (31st Anniversary)
req. Loretta & Jim McKenna

Wednesday, May 20

Mayers & Evans Families *req. Sue & John Evans*
Noel McCormack *req. Joseph & Mary O'Dea*

Thursday, May 21

Monica Seibert *req. Erica Seibert*

Friday, May 22

Mary K. DiGiacomo *req. Robert & Patricia Bernabeo*

Saturday, May 23

Mary K. DiGiacomo *req. Robert & Patricia Bernabeo*
Evelyn Livi *req. Hemmer Family*

Sunday, May 24 - Ascension of the Lord

Kevin Walsh *req. Eileen & Rich Walsh*
Edward Szulis *req. Evelyn Szulis*
Roger Marsalis *req. Timothy Murray*
Louise Vaters *req. Francine McClellan*

Our weekend Mass continues to be celebrated live on Saturdays at 5:30pm via Livestream.

The Mass remains available as a recording for later viewing.

To watch, visit www.stcatharinechurch.org and click on



Prayers for the Sick

We remember those who are ill, especially:

Pasquale Amato, Jim Bull, Cathy Dargento, Katherine Dworetzky, Fred Gaudart, Brandon Higgins, Paul David Johnson, Erma McCarthy, Steven McDonnell, John McMurray, Alda Mechetti, Joseph Neri, Alexis Nunez, Joe Rorro, Nicole Salzano, Mary Sweeney, Mary Thumann, Audrey Tracy and Carol Van Savage.



We pray for all those who are suffering from the effects of Covid19 and also offer prayers of thanksgiving for our healthcare workers and all essential workers.

St. Catharine Church is as Active as Ever in Time of Crisis

Monday, May 18 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Pope St. John Paul II. Of his countless contributions to our Church and world one stands out in particular during this time of pandemic—his call for a New Evangelization. In 1983, St. John Paul II defined the New Evangelization as being a commitment to proclaiming the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus with new “ardor, methods and expression.” Though this avant-garde term in our Catholic Faith gained immense popularity in the last forty years and has become the rallying cry for reinvigorating our approach to how we go about living and sharing the Gospel, its implementation on a large scale has been quite difficult as it is human nature to desire to do things as they have always been done. As the saying goes, “why rock the boat?”

Well, as we all too painfully know firsthand, the Ark of Peter (i.e., the Church) has been rocked by this pandemic as we cannot physically gather together in Word and Sacrament as the visible Body of Christ. As a parish community, we could have responded with frustration and resignation trying to just hunker down and weather the storm and hope to come out relatively intact after the raging pandemic quiets down. However, we have taken the approach to boldly ride the storm head on by embracing the New Evangelization’s call to new “ardor, methods and expression” of our Faith during this time when people find themselves needing to seek the safety and comfort of the Ark of the Church.

St. Catharine’s has been blessed to be much more prepared than most parishes to tackle head-on the challenges of disruption caused by the pandemic. First and foremost, we have had in place a very effective three-fold means of electronic communication—St. Catharine Connect email blasts, the parish website and Facebook page—reaching parishioners in a timely fashion with the latest updates as things were changing sometimes daily, if not hourly. Secondly, we were extremely grateful to be able to seamlessly continue to livestream Mass with our state-of-the-art technology whereas other parishes were scrambling to find the right equipment and software and learning to use it properly. Thirdly, we are exceptionally thankful for the great dedication of parishioners who have already been regularly financially supporting our parish electronically through Faith Direct as well as dropping off collection envelopes through the rectory mail slot.

As a parish overall and through the tireless work of countless ministries, we have continued to provide spiritual comfort and the reassurance of faith and hope to all. An online form was created allowing anyone to anonymously and confidentially submit their personal prayer intentions to be included in all the Masses celebrated by Fr. Tom and me. The link to this form is <https://forms.gle/2KzL74rGHNcvcobH6>. We have received dozens of prayer requests that we pray for every single day and more can be submitted by anyone anytime. In addition to Mass being livestreamed weekly, we have had Stations of the Cross, Lenten reflections, and even our 31st annual Divine Mercy celebration available for prayerful viewing by all. Many ministries also send out regular updates and prayers to their members. The miraculous power of prayer of our parishioners is felt strongly and appreciated greatly by so many in our community.

The video conferencing app Zoom has proved to be quite effective in allowing many ministries to provide “virtual gatherings” for their members to connect spiritually and socially. The success of many of these “virtual gatherings” are chronicled in greater detail in the articles written by other staff members, but I would like highlight some here as well (and by no means is this an exhaustive list).

CYO teenagers—greatly distressed by the disruption of their schooling and cancellation of many events—have found CYO Sunday night Zoom gatherings a source of much-needed stability in their lives and connectivity with their peers. Often additional Zoom sessions with our CYO members take place throughout the week to alleviate the intense stress that these teenagers experience. Many teenagers have expressed over and over again what a blessing CYO has been in their lives giving them hope and constancy amidst anxiety and volatility.

Our INSPIRE Young Adult Ministry (already by far the largest young adult ministry in the Archdiocese of Newark) has benefitted tremendously through the use of Zoom video conferencing. Not only have our regular First Friday gatherings been able to continue through the use of Zoom, but our ministry has actually expanded in what it is able to offer to this crucial (and often overlooked) age group of 21-35-year-olds. Now we pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet every Tuesday evening over Zoom and provide a six-week preparation for Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary coinciding and following up on the United States Bishops’ consecration of our nation to Our Lady. As social networking is key for young adults, we have developed collaboration with other young adult ministries in the Archdiocese of New York and come together in prayer and “virtual fellowship.” As the epicenter of the pandemic is New York and Bergen County, this spiritual alliance has proven to bear much fruit.

Our Religious Education program and Academy of Our Lady school continue to serve the multifaceted needs of our students through online learning. Emails and video messages go out regularly to these families. Children from our Monday CCD program were able to come together and see each other over Zoom to wrap up this school year for them. Our Confirmation candidates will be participating in an online retreat these upcoming weeks to prepare them to receive this important Sacrament of Christian maturity. Online resources for our second graders are also being provided to help keep alive their excitement and anticipation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Summer Religious Education Program will take place virtually through the use of Google Classroom and other resources. Our coordinators and teachers have worked vigorously to offer religious instruction to our children, but we all know that the primary educators of our kids are the parents. So many parents have shared with me the creative ways they have turned their homes into a “domestic church” and inspired their children to remain close to God in prayer, especially during this time of need.

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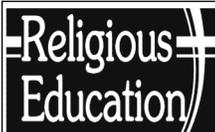
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Furthermore, Cornerstone, the Men's Sharing Group and many other ministries have utilized Zoom effectively in serving the needs of so many parishioners. It's heartwarming and encouraging to see members of our parish opening up and sharing their faith experiences during this overwhelming crisis and turning to God and one another for mutual support, reassurance and comfort. These video conferencing sessions have provided opportunities for people who in normal circumstances would not be able to be physically present at a meeting to join in and receive a sense of relief and hope from fellow disciples of Our Lord Jesus. This has been particularly true at funerals and burials where people from across the country and even overseas can participate when they would not have been able to otherwise.

Moreover, our parish outreach ministries have been working tirelessly as people from outside our parish are helped materially through the dedicated work of parishioners and their generous contributions to St. Mary's Food Pantry, our own St. Catharine Food Pantry, and Family Promise, among others. To all those who contributed in any way, we offer a huge and heartfelt "thank you."

Finally, Fr. Tom and I remain available to be of service to you in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us whether for prayers, spiritual guidance or a specific need. My email address is frbogumil@gmail.com. I have received many emails and phone calls from so many of you, and I always tremendously appreciate all of them. If anyone has any suggestions as how our parish could be even more effective in living out the call of the New Evangelization with new "ardor, methods and expression" during this time of hardship, we want to hear from you. In the meantime, please know that we cannot express adequately the immense gratitude we have for all of you for remaining faithful to the Ark of St. Catharine during this turbulent storm and that you have not "jumped ship" but instead have contributed your "hands on deck." I personally pray for each and every one of you as I look forward with eagerness to the day when we can gather in-person worshipping Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lady Mother of the Church, pray for us! *Fr. Bogumil*



There seem to be so many unintended side effects of this quarantine. One of the positive ones for us is being reminded that what constitutes the church isn't necessarily just the address. Instead, it is the belief that we the faithful, the body of Christ, are the church. Even though our physical church may be closed for prayer and liturgy right now, the "Church" that is in our hearts can never be closed. Our faith, ability to pray, and help our family and community will keep our Church strong until we see each other again.

Here are some of the ways we show our faith and love for others as we are told to stay home:

1. Watch our weekly taped mass with our family at home. Livestream link to mass at 5:30pm on Saturdays: www.livestream.com/stcatharine.
2. Read Scripture. In addition to your Bible, Children's Bible or check out the USCCB website for daily readings: <http://cms.usccb.org>.
3. Utilize technology to keep close to loved ones. FaceTime grandparents, or other family members so they can see your kids smiling! Send video messages to teachers who are doing a great job keeping students learning.
4. Reflect on what you miss. Did you notice how much more you wanted to go to Mass when you were told you can't? Be more grateful for the freedoms we have enjoyed our entire lives.
5. Reflect on what you don't miss. On the other hand, did you almost feel a little relief when some activities and get-togethers were suspended or canceled? How much do we fill up our lives with things that just keep us busy? When this time ends, can we be more mindful of how we spend our time?
6. Really listen to your family while home. Enjoy having more time to do things together such as baking, cooking, playing games.
7. Create with others in mind! Retirement communities and nursing homes have been hit tremendously hard. In light of this, many are asking for volunteers to send cards and pictures to brighten the day of some of our most vulnerable. Create a card of love and joy and send it to someone who may need a smile.
8. Smile, wave, and say hello when you're out for a walk or getting the mail. You never know who may be in desperate need of a smile, and the CDC has not banned that yet!
9. Donate your goods. No time like now to realize how many things you don't need. If you're stuck in your home for weeks, and you still don't touch those board games or DVDs, you never will.
10. If you can afford it, look into online giving for our parish through Faith Direct at <https://membership.faihdirect.net/NJ708>. Or offer to pay, partially pay, or give gift cards to piano teachers, hairstylists, tutors, etc., who didn't have much time to plan for their services and income being canceled.
11. Go outside! How blessed are we that we live in a beautiful area. Look at the flowers, birds, trees and all the things God has created for us.
12. Check on your elderly neighbors. If you have their phone numbers, give them a call, see if they need groceries or medicine, and offer to leave it on their porch for them. If you don't have their numbers, leave a note in their mailbox with your phone number.
13. PRAY as a family. Pray in the morning, say a Grace together at meals or a bedtime pray.

These are just some ideas to keep your faith alive while the physical church is closed. God Bless you all and stay safe.

Maryann Facciolo & Michelle Torpey *Co-Directors of Religious Education*



May – The Month of Mary

Honoring Mary for the entire month of May is a long-standing tradition. As Catholics, we set aside the month of May to honor Mary in special prayer, songs, and May crownings. I thought this would be an appropriate time to write about a few of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially since the US Bishops have consecrated the United States to Our Lady, and so, we too, should follow their example and entrust ourselves and our families to the Blessed Mother.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

One of the most famous apparitions took place on February 11, 1858 in a town in southern France when a young girl named Bernadette Soubirous saw a vision of a lovely lady near a grotto while she was collecting firewood with her sister and another friend. In the words of St. Bernadette, "I raised my head and looked towards the grotto. I saw a Lady dressed in white, wearing a white dress, a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same color as the chain of her Rosary." In the vision, Our Lady was praying the rosary. Bernadette returned to the grotto on February 14 and 18 and again saw the vision. During this third vision, "the lady" asked Bernadette to return every day for the next two weeks. At these subsequent visits "the lady" (who had not yet identified herself as the Blessed Virgin Mary) asked for a chapel to be built on the grounds, for Bernadette to pray for the conversion of sinners, and for her to drink the spring water that was revealed to her at the grotto. As word spread of the visions, many people came from the village to pray with Bernadette and the water that she was asked to drink soon proved to be blessed water offering miraculous healing properties. On March 25, "the lady" told Bernadette that she was "the Immaculate Conception". Today a beautiful church has been erected on the grounds near the grotto at Lourdes. After Rome and the Holy Land, Lourdes is the most popular place of pilgrimage for Catholic faithful. The water of Lourdes is readily available to all pilgrims, and numerous healings have been medically documented to have occurred there, as well as conversions to the faith because of these miracles. St. Bernadette's feast day is Feb. 18th.

Our Lady of Lourdes Prayer for Healing:

O ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; look with mercy on me. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. (mention your petition)
Through gratitude for your favours, I will endeavour to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

SONG OF BERNADATTE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlaCitP8bjQ>

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

On May 13, 1917, in the town of Fatima, Portugal, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three young peasant children who were tending their family's sheep when "a Lady all in white, more brilliant than the sun... indescribably beautiful," standing above a bush, appeared to the youngsters. From May through October 1917, the Lady appeared and spoke to the children on the 13th day of each month. The children recounted that the Virgin told them that God would grant peace to the entire world if Her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed. When it became known the Lady would visit the children for the last time on October 13, 1917, and had promised a sign that would convince the world she had appeared, many pilgrims made plans to attend. Nearly 70,000 people journeyed through heavy rain and mud to bear witness to the predicted miracle.

Suddenly the "clouds separated...and the sun appeared between them in the clear blue, like a disk of white fire." The people could look at the sun without blinking and while they gazed upward, the huge ball began to "dance". All of this transpired in approximately ten minutes. After realizing they were not doomed, the crowd began ecstatically laughing, crying, shouting and weeping. Many discovered their previously drenched clothing to be perfectly dry. This has become known as "The Miracle of the Sun," The heart of Our Lady's message to the world is contained in what has become known as the "Secret," which she confided to the children in July 1917. The "Secret" which consists of three parts: an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls, with particular emphasis on praying of the rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; a prophesy of the outbreak of World War II and the prediction of the immense damage that Russia would do to humanity by abandoning the Christian faith and embracing Communists' totalitarianism; and the immense suffering endured by witnesses of the faith in the last century of the second millennium.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA:

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the Rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

Continued on the next page.....

Continued....May – The Month of Mary

OUR LADY OF KNOCK

If you are a parishioner of St. Catharine, you have probably heard the song, "Lady of Knock" (a particular favorite of Cardinal Tobin), but you may not know the story of the apparition itself. On the evening of August 21, 1879 in a small town in the west of Ireland, Our Lady appeared at the gable of the church with St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, and a plain altar on which sat a lamb. She wore a large crown and where the crown fitted her brow, a single rose. The witnesses (15 in total) watched and prayed the rosary for over two hours in the pouring rain and while the wind from the west drove the rain against the gable, it remained perfectly dry. The Marian apparition at Knock is notable for many reasons. The first is that it occurred in an Ireland that was still feeling the social and political ramifications of the famine years of the 1840s. The second is that of all the Marian apparitions, this was the first and only time when Mary did not appear by herself. Lastly—and most notably of all—unlike other apparitions, Mary did not speak one word. She was silent. Every Marian apparition has a purpose and a meaning. Perhaps the silence of Knock has a message for our turbulent times. When Mary, St. Joseph and St. John appeared, they did so to a people who were clinging to their faith despite a time of hardship, suffering and deprivation. It symbolized the everlasting solidarity between God and man, one which does not need words or speech—the belief that despite everything, God is with us. In this time of uncertainty and fear we must remember that God is always with us.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF KNOCK:

Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to our people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine Son, remembering His promise: "Ask and you shall receive, Seek and you shall find". Help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to heaven. Fill me with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who live with me. Comfort me when I am sick or lonely or depressed. Teach me how to take part ever more reverently in the holy Mass. Pray for me now, and at the hour of my death. Amen.

<https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/entertainment/listen-our-lady-knock-patricks-day>

OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

The story begins on the night of July 18, 1830. Sister Catherine Labouré, a novice in the community of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, was awakened by a child (thought to be her guardian angel) who summoned her to the chapel. There she was visited by the Virgin Mary who spoke with her for several hours and Mary said to her, "My child, I am going to give you a mission." Mary gave her this mission through a second apparition during evening meditation on November 27, 1830. Sister Catherine saw Mary standing on a half globe with the word "France" on it. France was undergoing difficult times, especially for the poor, unemployed and many refugees from the wars of the time. Mary was holding a golden globe in her hand and many rays of light were streaming from the rings on Mary's fingers. Mary explained that the rays symbolize the graces she obtains for those who ask for them. However, some of the gems on the rings were dark, and Mary explained that the rays and graces were available but did not come because no one had asked for them. Mary gave her this mission in a vision during evening meditation on November 27, 1830. She saw Mary standing on what seemed to be half a globe and holding a golden globe in her hands as if offering it to heaven. On the globe was the word "France," and our Lady explained that the globe represented the whole world, but especially France. The times were difficult in France, especially for the poor who were unemployed and often refugees from the many wars of the time. France was first to experience many of those troubles which ultimately reached other parts of the world and are even present today. Streaming from rings on Mary's fingers as she held the globe were many rays of light. Mary explained that the rays symbolize the graces she obtains for those who ask for them. However, some of the gems on the rings were dark, and Mary explained that the rays and graces were available but did not come because no one had asked for them. During a third apparition, during which the design of the Miraculous Medal was revealed, the vision changed to show our Lady standing on a globe now outstretched and with dazzling rays of light still streaming from her fingers. Framing the figure was an inscription: *O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.* The vision turned and showed the design of the reverse side of the medal. Twelve stars encircled a large "M" from which arose a cross. Below are two hearts with flames arising from them. Thorns encircle one heart and a sword pierces the other. Then Mary spoke to Catherine: "Have a medal struck upon this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck." The first Medals were made in 1832 and distributed in Paris with the approval of the Church and, almost immediately, the blessings that Mary had promised began to shower down on those who wore her Medal. The Medal is not a "good-luck charm", but a testimony to faith and the power of trusting in prayer.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL PRAYER:

"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

We should always, but particularly in this month of May, remember to pray to our Blessed Mother. I myself, pray to Mary daily and have received many blessings from her intercession. I was blessed to visit the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris when I was fourteen years old. At the time, I was unfamiliar with the medal and the apparitions. Even at the age of fourteen, I was overwhelmed with a sense of peace and calm upon entering the chapel and praying in front of St. Catherine (whose intact body is encased in glass at the altar). I purchased a Medal at the gift shop and had it blessed in the chapel. I have worn it ever since and so many times it serves as reminder to me to "let go and let God". It gives me the greatest comfort to know that God is always with me and that, like Mary, I pray to always "let it be done to me according to His will".

May God bless all of you at this difficult time and I pray, thru the intercession of Mary, that we will all be together again soon to pray and worship together. ~ Sally Trahan



Greetings St. Catharine's! We have missed you all dearly during this time of quarantine, but we have been keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers as CYO continues to gather remotely. Through this quarantine, I have been truly amazed and in pure awe of the youth of our parish. Our teens have demonstrated resilience and optimism through their participation and viewing of weekly Mass as well as supporting one another socially and emotionally, and for that we should all commend them.

Since we have been under quarantine, CYO has kept its Sunday Night traditions via Zoom and Facetime calls. Our Co-Presidents, Alyssa Kitz, Sophie Moore, and David Viggiano have been collaborating with the St. Catharine's staff members to create meaningful, engaging, and entertaining sessions that not only allow for the teens of our parish to have an escape from these hectic times but help to foster each individual's faith and gather us weekly in the name of Christ. These sessions have ranged from praying the Stations of the Cross, to participating in pop culture trivia via Kahoot!

After each planned Sunday Night activity, Fr. Bogumil shares religious fun facts with the teens, and then asks each individual to share out a prayer intention. Each teen shares their intention aloud as the other individuals listen and pray for them as well. To conclude the evening, we say a silent prayer for the prayer intentions that have been submitted anonymously via a Google Form, which Fr. Bogumil also prays for each evening. If you wish to submit an anonymous prayer for Fr. Bogumil or the CYO teens to pray over, please complete the link: <https://forms.gle/UkEzeYWbyFZWBkMDA>.

Not only has CYO gathered via Zoom and Facetime calls, but the teens have found creative ways to celebrate the milestones taking place as we are separated. Many birthday drive-by trips, Zoom celebration parties, and Facetime video conferences have taken place to remind each individual that they are loved, not only by their fellow CYO members, but by God as well. These teens have truly put faith into action by reaching out to one another, checking in on their peers, and actively working to keep God at the forefront of their lives even though we cannot gather in His name in person.

The usual CYO traditions, such as playing dodgeball in the gym, going to Six Flags for the NJ Catholic Youth Rally, or traveling to Warwick for the Junior/Senior retreat are on hold for now, but the Holy Spirit is truly alive in each of the teens in our CYO program. As the next few months continue, we will keep looking for opportunities for the teens of our parish to come together in their faith and maintain as many traditions as possible until we have our usual break for the summer. My time with CYO and St. Catharine's will come to a close this summer since I am moving to Union County, but I am forever grateful to God, Fr. Tom, Fr. Bogumil, the St. Catharine's Staff, the CYO Council, and all of St. Catharine's parishioners for the opportunities and blessings that I have experience since joining this parish, especially during this pandemic.

Even though this is not how we all envisioned the end of CYO and the school year to close, I am truly thankful for the outpour of support the parishioners have shown for our program, before quarantine and during it as well. If you have not had the opportunity to do so yet, please say a prayer for our CYO program and for the continued perseverance and positivity that our teens have been exhibiting so far during this pandemic. Again, thank you for your support of St. Catharine's CYO program, and may God continue to watch over you all and your loved ones.

Blessings, Megan Breitenbach - Youth Ministry



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Prayer for Our Troops O God of mercy, we ask You to protect in a special way those who are fighting for us and for the country we love. Bless them and take care of them. Give them strength. Give them comfort. Touch them with Your gentle hand and let them know that You are near them. Hasten the day, dear Lord, when we may all enjoy the blessings of peace once more. Amen.



St. Catharine Food Pantry

Did you know that St. Catharine's has a Food Pantry? Since November 2011, the pantry has been helping numerous people/families in our community by providing bags of groceries to those in need, while ensuring privacy and confidentiality. If you or someone you know has an immediate or recurring need for groceries, please call or text Rosemary at 201-661-3651. We are grateful for the support of our many benefactors, who keep the pantry a reliable source of food for those in need.



Mary, help me to be a good example of what is good and holy. Help me to appreciate the gifts God has given me and to keep my thoughts and actions pure.

Prayer from *Talking to God: Prayers for Catholic Women*



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