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## **A WORD FROM FR. LEWIS ...**

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### **The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

My dear, my beloved parishioners,

Greetings in Christ.

My priestly heart is heavy with not seeing you every week and with not being able to bring you in person the Eucharist, the Source and Summit of the life of the Church. Thank God we can at least unite through the miracle of modern technology with the daily Godcast on YouTube. I pray you are finding it a comfort as I am in bringing you the Mass this way and in remembering you at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Also, I thank God for those who have been putting themselves on the front lines for our well-being and safety: emergency, medical and pharmaceutical professionals and staff as well as our law enforcement officers and civil servants working to keep order, calm and hope. I remember particularly in prayer those who have contracted the virus and are sick as well as those who have lost employment because of the emergency measures. You are all in my many prayers throughout the day.

God says to the Prophet Ezekiel in this weekend's first reading, "I will open your graves for you and I will have you rise from them." God's promise of having us rise gives us strength, especially at this time. In anticipation of Jesus' rising from the dead, God promises that He will have us rise as well, but beginning here and now: I will have you rise from your fears; I will have you rise from your worries; I will have you rise from your concerns; I will have you rise from your doubts. Let us trust in God wholeheartedly, now more than ever, to rise from this.

While we do trust in God's Providence, He also invites us to cooperate with His goodness. With all public Masses being suspended for the foreseeable future, our Offertory is likely to suffer and increasingly so the longer our church doors are required to stay closed. This directly affects our available funds each week to maintain our churches and buildings, pay our bills, to pay our utility and maintenance bills and meet our payroll.

Please know how deeply grateful I am to you for all you do for and give to the parish. Know, also, how thankful I am to continue receiving your weekly offertory, as you are able, whether through the convenience of online giving available through our website or by envelopes mailed to the parish office. Your consistent giving truly helps keep our budget balanced and helps us be the Face of Christ to all by having liturgical supplies available (such as hosts, altar wine, candles, Lent / Advent prayer books, missals), by landscaping and maintaining our facilities, and by paying staff salaries and utility bills. Your contributions directly help us present an arms-wide open welcome to all who come to BParish and help others, in God's words to Ezekiel, "to rise from" their spiritual sufferings.

Thank you for you; you help my priestly heart to "rise" by allowing me to serve you. You and yours remain in my prayers during this time of great need, but also always.

In Christ,  
Fr. Lewis

## OTHER NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

Let us continue to celebrate with joy the milestones in the lives of our parish family: APRIL BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

### URBI ET ORBI BLESSING WITH POPE FRANCIS

If you missed the live Urbi et Orbi Blessing with Pope Francis at 1pm today, you can watch it by clicking [here](#). It is very moving and reminds us, among other things, that "prayer and quiet service ... are our victorious weapons" during this time of great trial.

### GODCAST with Father Lewis

Don't forget to visit YouTube to subscribe to Godcast with Father Lewis to participate in daily and weekend Masses with Fr. Lewis and your parish family online. The link at the bottom of this message is for last Sunday's Mass. This Sunday's Mass should be available for viewing by 9am on 3/29. And, if you subscribe to the Godcast channel on YouTube you will receive alerts when new content is posted.

### MASS INTENTIONS

In keeping with canon law and by mandate of the Bishop, no priest in the Diocese of Wilmington may celebrate more than one Mass per day and Pastors/Parish Administrators are to offer a Mass on every Sunday and holy day of obligation for their people. Thus, during this time when no public Masses are being celebrated, the sole Mass that a pastor celebrates on a Sunday is to be for his parish. Due to these guidelines, we have had to move some Mass intentions from Sundays to weekdays. Here is a link to a list of the current Mass intentions through April 12th. We will send an updated list for future Masses within the next week or two.

### MASS CARDS

If you are in need of a Mass card, please contact Lori Parks ([lparks@beparish.com](mailto:lparks@beparish.com)). Cards can be mailed to recipients on your behalf or to you directly.

### PARISH OFFERINGS, ONLINE GIVING and HELP IF YOU NEED IT

During this time when our churches are closed, many of our expenses continue. We also recognize that these times may find our parish families facing difficult financial circumstances. As you are able, offertory and other weekly collection donations can be mailed to the Parish Office (PO Box 459, Ridgely MD 21660). Or, you can sign-up for WeShare, our parish's online giving platform, by visiting [this link](#) (and here is a simple guide to online giving). Should you have any questions about offertory or online giving, you can contact Marie Freeman at [mfreeman@beparish.com](mailto:mfreeman@beparish.com). Most importantly, if you find yourself in need of financial assistance, especially for things like food, rent or utilities, please contact the Parish Office via e-mail ([parishoffice@beparish.com](mailto:parishoffice@beparish.com) or [frlewis@beparish.com](mailto:frlewis@beparish.com)) or by phone (410-634-2253).

### CHOCOLATE EGG SALES THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 28th

Peanut butter, coconut cream, and buttercream-filled eggs will be available for sale at the Parish Hall this Saturday, March 28 from 10am-Noon. Cost is \$3 per egg. All proceeds benefit the Youth Ministry.

### HELP TO BRIGHTEN THE DAY OF OUR LOCAL NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

With the current restrictions related to the Coronavirus pandemic, our local nursing home residents cannot receive regular visitors and are even more isolated than usual. Help us to brighten their day by using one of the links below to access sheets that can be colored (by children or adults) and then write a simple message of comfort and mail your messages to one of our local nursing homes:

Autumn Lake Nursing Home  
420 Colonial Drive  
Denton MD 21629

Caroline Nursing Home  
520 Kerr Avenue  
Denton MD 21629

Homestead Manor Nursing Home  
410 Colonial Drive  
Denton MD 21629

Arcadia of Denton  
701 5th Street  
Denton MD 21629

Coloring Sheet #1  
Coloring Sheet #2

(Be sure to include a note in the envelope that encourages whomever opens your message to deliver it to any resident who they feel could use a boost of hope and happiness at this difficult time.)

**SEAL THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOME with IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY**

To protect you and your family, we encourage you to post an Image of the Divine Mercy on your front doors. Father Chris Alar, MIC, explains why in this video.

**LITANY IN TIME OF NEED**

Check out this recent article featured on The Dialog website and then visit the Relevant Radio website to pray the Litany in the time of Need. "Trusting in the help of God, as a sign of solidarity, we ask the whole Catholic community to join us in praying for deliverance of the human family from sickness and all evil."

**SIGN UP FOR THE ANGELUS (Online edition of The Dialog)**

The Dialog would like us to remind its online readers that they can sign up for free for the Angelus, the website's e-newsletter that typically comes out twice a week but has had additional editions during this heavy news cycle. Readers can sign up for the newsletter at the "Get our newsletter" link at the top of every page on [thedialog.org](http://thedialog.org).