NEW – RCIA Initiations Move to May 30, Vigil of Pentecost
Laura Bertone, Office of Worship  415-614-5586  bertonel@sfarch.org

In the Archdiocese of San Francisco, initiation into the Catholic Church, traditionally done at the Easter Vigil, will occur this year on May 30, the vigil of Pentecost, because of the ongoing closure of public Masses. Archbishop Cordileone has selected the vigil of Pentecost as a replacement because of its close connection to the descent of the Holy Spirit, and because of the hope that restrictions on public gatherings will have been lifted then. For complete information on this matter, read the article in Catholic San Francisco newspaper.

NEW – Mental Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Ed Hopfner  415-614-5547  hopfneresfarch.org
sfarch.org/mental-health

The Archdiocesan Mental Health Ministry has posted on its webpage an article and a video that can help with stress and anxiety during this unprecedented time of pandemic. The article and the video recommend, and demonstrate, the practice of prayer. In addition to these new additions, the Mental Health webpage has many other resources, and contact information for mental help consultations and interventions in the three counties of the Archdiocese. Visit the webpage, above.

NEW – St. Mary’s Cathedral Offers Crisis Prayer Helplines
Deacon R. Christoph Sandoval  Rcs7777@comcast.net

All are invited to e-mail prayer petitions to Deacon Sandoval at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. We will remember those who are suffering illness of spirit, mind, or body, those who are grieving, and those who are infected or affected by the coronavirus. Crisis Helpline Prayer Phone Support is also available. Please e-mail your request for an appointment by phone. We are available particularly for those who are sick, homebound, or in hospital, and those are infected and affected by the coronavirus.
NEW – St. Vincent Paul Society Must Meet Urgent New Needs
svdpsm.org

There is an unprecedented wave of need in our communities. St. Vincent de Paul needs your support today to meet the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors during these challenging times. The 10th annual Hands & Hearts Making a Difference dinner, the main fundraising event of the year, scheduled for April 23, has been canceled. This event supports the Safety-Net Services, which are needed now more than ever. We encourage instead donations to the Children of God Community Impact Fund, where 100 percent of donations goes directly to providing critical services such as rental and utility assistance, food and warm clothing. No contributions are applied towards the administrative or overhead expense of the organization. To get more information and to donate, please click here.

NEW – The 12-Step Way in COVID Time: Fr. Terry Ryan, CSP
Saturday, April 25, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Richard at ollipops@comcast.net or Judy at 12StepEvent@gmail.com

All are welcome to join Fr. Terry Ryan online for reflections on The 12-Step Way in COVID Time. This is a Zoom virtual workshop. The 12 Steps and the 11th Step practice of prayer and meditation can open us to the experience of a higher power gazing upon us as we truly are. For reservations, use the e-mails above. A flyer is here.

A New Mass for a Time of Pandemic
Laura Bertone, Office of Worship 415-614-5586 bertonel@sarch.org
sfarch.org/liturgy-resources

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has issued new Mass texts and suggested readings. In its decree, the Congregation said it was responding to requests by clergy “to be able to celebrate a specific Mass to implore God to bring an end to this pandemic.” Archbishop Cordileone has distributed this information to all the priests of the Archdiocese. The Spanish and English Mass texts, and the recommended Scripture readings in Spanish and English, can be read on (and downloaded from) the Office of Worship Liturgy webpage, above.

Grocery Ministry Is Launched, Volunteers Are Needed
LifeandDignity@sarch.org 415-614-5571
sfarch.org/loveyourneighbor sfarch.org/amaatuprojimo

The Archdiocese of San Francisco’s Office of Human Life & Dignity (HLD) has launched a “Love Your Neighbor” initiative to help those who are homebound and in need of groceries during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place. On the webpage Love Your Neighbor (above), those who need help can submit requests (online or by phone); those who want to give help can volunteer, online or by phone. The project launched on April 2, and Archbishop Cordileone sent a personal message to pastors urging them to participate in making the project a success.

Funding is available to Catholic groups who establish short-term grocery-buying and delivery ministries during the pandemic. These ministries will provide groceries, without charge, for those in financial need. In addition, they will do shopping and delivery for those who have funds to buy groceries but are homebound because of COVID-19 health concerns.

For complete information and instructions on how to participate, visit the English webpage or Spanish webpage, above.

Read an explanatory article in Catholic San Francisco newspaper here. If you have questions, use the e-mail or phone above.
Online Parish Giving Page on Archdiocesan Website

Rod Linhares, Development Director  415-614-5581  linharesr@sfarch.org
sfarch.org/lifeline

Parishes: Please advise your parishioners that there is a new and convenient means to keep their parish community healthy and strong even when the church is locked and the pews are empty. No offertory gifts need be lost because of the suspension of attendance at Masses. The contributions that are critical to parish operation can be made instantly at the Lifeline page on the Archdiocesan website, above. This may be particularly useful to parishes where EFT giving is not yet well developed. Using the donation tool is easy: Select any parish from the dropdown menu, enter the amount of the gift, complete the form, and submit. Visit the Lifeline page to see Archbishop Cordileone explain this initiative on video. Questions? Contact Rod Linhares, above.

Limited Services at Catholic Cemeteries

Holy Cross Cemetery, All Saints Chapel, 1500 Mission Rd., Colma
Monica Williams  650-756-2060
holycrosscemeteries.com

Monica Williams, Director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Archdiocese, has sent these updates:

The First Saturday Masses at Holy Cross Cemetery for April 4 and May 2 have been canceled. We hope to resume our Masses in June but will post information as it is available. The staff members of the Catholic Cemeteries continue to pray for all our beloved dead.

During the shelter-in-place order, the Catholic Cemeteries, fulfilling our ministry of the Corporal Work of Mercy to bury the dead, remain open for committal services. The following limitations are in place in compliance with the local and state shelter-in-place orders:

- Committal services are limited to a maximum of 10 people, who are to practice social distancing.
- Our offices are closed to the public, but our staff is available by phone, fax, and email. Families needing to select new burial sites for loved ones may make an appointment to meet a staff member.
- For those families wishing to delay services, we will be happy to help schedule those at an appropriate time, and to schedule larger memorial gatherings in the future for those who may have had to limit their services.

Catholic Charities Offers Opportunities to Help Others

catholiccharitiessf.org

Catholic Charities of San Francisco (CCSF) asks help with three new initiatives to assist those most in need as we find our way through the coronavirus period:

- Partnering with Silicon Valley Community Foundation, CCSF provides basic needs and assistance through the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund.
- Gifts to Catholic Charities are being matched by many employers. Check here to see if your employer will match your gift to Catholic Charities.
- The $2 trillion stimulus bill (CARES) encourages Americans to donate to nonprofits. Taxpayers who do not itemize deductions to deduct up to $300 in charitable donations from their 2020 taxable income. Catholic Charities is on the frontlines of support for those devastated by this crisis. Now as never before, your donations are needed.
Archdiocesan Website Is Information Source and Spiritual Resource

sfarch.org/health-alerts

The website also offers online Prayers (sfarch.org/prayers) and Devotionals (sfarch.org/devotionals), a guide for Keeping the Sabbath Holy at Home (sfarch.org/keeping-the-sabbath), and fresh resources and real-time links to important Catholic events. Visit frequently to learn the latest and to support your life of faith.

Parish Livestreams of Liturgies and More

Jan Potts, Department of Communication 415-614-5638 pottsj@sfarch.org
sfarch.org/livestreams

 Archbishop Cordileone celebrates nonpublic Mass in St. Mary’s Cathedral daily (M-F) at 7:30 am; on Saturdays at 8:00 am; and on Sundays at 11:00 am or 1:00 pm (Spanish). All Masses from the Cathedral are livestreamed. Each Mass can be experienced live online or viewed later (youtube.org/archdioceseofsanfrancisco/watch ) Audio of the Archbishop’s homilies is posted on the website (sfarch.org/homilies) and in our podcast (archdiocesesf.libsyn.com).

Many parishes are also livestreaming daily and weekend Masses, as well as talks, retreats, reflections, and more, in which the faithful are invited to participate in their homes. A growing list of those is found on the webpage sfarch.org/livestreams. Please check to see if yours is listed and accurate; contact J. A. Gray, grayj@sfarch.org, with any updates.

If you are not streaming, please be sure to make your parishioners aware of these opportunities (share the above link in website, emails, mailings, etc.). With the statewide shelter-in-place directives, livestreaming is one of the best ways to connect ‘personally’ and directly with our parishioners. Some recommendations for effective use of your time online with parishioners are at sfarch.org/streamtips.

Red Cross Needs Blood Donations Urgently

800-733-2767
redcrossblood.org

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Cross asks people to “roll up a sleeve” and donate blood to meet immediate needs and to replenish hospital supplies. Visit the website (above) or phone, or download the Red Cross app to your phone, to make an appointment to donate blood in a safe and hygienic environment.

CHANCERY ADMINISTRATION

Changes for Archdiocesan Offices and Staff

Staff at the Chancery, One Peter Yorke Way in San Francisco, have largely been working from home in compliance with government shelter-in-place directives. Those directives have now been extended to May 3. Because of the decreased income to the archdiocese at this time, hourly chancery employees are on a Monday-Thursday workweek, and pay reductions have been put in place for all Chancery staff, who remain available to assist parishes and schools. We will update this information as necessary.
Open Enrollment for Employee Health Benefits Coming
May 13 through May 28
Janice Ward 415-614-5526   LaShonda Perry 415-614-5626
retatrust.org
The annual period of employee enrollment for health plans is May 13 through 28. Please mark the dates. Even if you plan to make no changes and to keep your coverage the same, you MUST go online to the Reta Benefits Center website during this time and record your selection again for the coming year. This two-week period is your only chance to revise, elect, or terminate your health-related benefits (without a qualifying life-event). More information will be forthcoming. Please contact Janice Ward or LaShonda Perry in the Human Resources Office with any questions. A flyer is here.

Marriage Encounter Weekend Set for August
Ed Hopfner, Office of Marriage and Family Life 415-614-5680   Hopfneresfarch.org
sanjosewwme.org
Marriage Encounter is a positive, simple common sense, private experience between you and your spouse, that revitalizes marriage by helping you to see again those loving qualities in each other that you may be taking for granted. The next scheduled Marriage Encounter Weekends in the Bay Area are May 15-17 in San Jose and August 1-2 in San Francisco. The May event is likely to be canceled, but the August event may be held. For information and updates, visit the website, above, or contact Ken and Claranne at 408-782-1413.

U.S. Census 2020: Now Available Online
sfarchdiocese.org/faithful-citizenship
2020census.gov
Respond to the 2020 U.S. Census as soon as possible. Information collected affects important federal funding that supports programs in our communities. Fact sheets with information in English and Spanish can be found on our webpage, above. For complete information on how to participate, visit the Census webpage, above.

JOB LISTINGS
There are no job listings in The Bridge until further notice. To view current job listings, please visit the Archdiocesan website’s Employment Opportunities Page.