
ST. ELIZABETH - ST. BRIGID PARISH

March 23, 2020 – March 29, 2020

4th Sunday of Lent

Dear friends in Christ,

We are all familiar with the words from Sacred Scripture: “This is the day the Lord has made, Let us be glad and rejoice in it” (Psalm 118:24). As we all know, there is never a reason for us as Catholics, as followers of Christ, to not be glad and rejoice! We always have more blessings than not, even in the midst of the current medical and financial crisis. Coronavirus must become our opportunity to show ourselves, God and others who we are and why we count our blessings.

From a spiritual point of view, we might say that the Coronavirus has become our Lent this year which may also be spoken of as our cross. The cross, of course, is meaningless without the resurrection. But we as Catholics, as followers of Christ, also believe in the resurrection. In fact, we not only believe but we look forward to celebrating the great mystery of Jesus Christ risen from the dead. As followers, what Christ does, we do ... where Christ goes, we go!

It is within this context that we must view and even live with the Coronavirus. We must rise to the occasion by being people of charity, thinking not only of ourselves and our households but being attentive to our friends and neighbors as well.

One of the matters that I want to bring to your attention is your parish stewardship. To say it another way, our parish collections are down significantly. Please take time to mail your donation to the parish when you find a moment and/or e-Giving. This is essential if we are going to keep two churches up and running once the Coronavirus is behind us. PLEASE don't forget

Secondly, and more importantly, the only way we are going to put this whole matter of the Coronavirus behind us is by maintaining a regular daily prayer life. We are really in a “wartime” mode. All public Sunday and weekday Masses for the faithful have been cancelled with the exception of funerals, weddings and small private baptisms (as long as they follow the “crowd size” guidelines mandated by civil authorities). This will be re-evaluated by Bishop Checchio before the weekend of Palm Sunday. All other parish events and gatherings are likewise cancelled including Stations of the Cross. As always, emergency Anointing of the Sick and Confessions can be arranged by calling the parish office. PLEASE NOTE: During these troubling times I am praying the Mass everyday on your behalf. For your part, I ask that you make a Spiritual Communion at home so as to “mystically” unite ourselves to one another and to the official prayer of the Church. As well, I recommend the “Coronavirus: Prayer for Courage” written by Father Hillier.

The Holy Rosary is also recommended for those who enjoy a Marian spirituality or the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

If circumstances warrant it, I will ask you to donate some of your extra items so they might be shared with those who have nothing. Such items may include: rubber gloves, disposable masks, disinfectant wipes and related items.

As we move along together in this national crisis, please remember the words printed on every currency: “In God We Trust”. We trust that Almighty God will lead us through this and comfort us along the way.

In Christ Jesus Our Lord,

Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Puleo, Pastor

FROM BISHOP CHECCHIO MARCH 17, 2020

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC MASSES

All public Masses throughout the Diocese of Metuchen will be temporarily suspended and to resume no earlier than April 3, 2020, when the situation will be re-evaluated as circumstances unfold. Despite the suspension of public Masses, a private Mass will be celebrated daily at 7 AM. in the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi and can be viewed at that time on their website: www.stfranciscathedral.org. Televised or online celebrations of the Mass and other religious programming are available for use of the faithful on several television channels.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

(†)Deceased (L) Living

The following Mass Intentions to be said by Msgr. Puleo and Fr. Hillier

Monday, March 23 ~ St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Kathleen Murphy †

Tuesday, March 24 ~ St. Oscar Romero

Harold E. & Marie Jones †

Wednesday, March 25 ~ The Annunciation of the Lord

Raymond Burghardt †

Thursday, March 26 ~

Bienvenido C. Valencia †

Friday, March 27 ~

Bienvenido C. Valencia †

Saturday, March 28 ~

Cameron Calabrese †

Marie Jarecki †

Sunday, March 29 ~5th Sunday of Lent

Anthony Bielawa †

Domingos & Maria Matinho †

First Responders

For the Parishioners

PRAYERS

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
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.

Coronavirus - Prayer for Courage

God our Loving Father, comforter of the afflicted,
watch over us always, but most especially at this,
our time of urgent need.

With heavy hearts we cry out to you ...
We ask that you heal those among us
weighed down with the coronavirus.

Inspire with your holy wisdom —
our health professionals: scientists, doctors,
and all medical personnel.
Show special attention to our government officials:
nationally, internationally, and local.
Make them instruments of your love
as they seek to serve your people.

Lord and Giver of Life, trusting in your mercy,
we recall the prayer of your prophet Jeremiah:
*"heal me, O Lord and I shall be healed;
save me, and I shall be saved"* (17:14).

When fearful, grant us courage.
When uncertain, strengthen us.
In our sorrow, comfort us.

With hearts overflowing with love for you,
we surrender ourselves to your providential care,
and ask only that you consider our sincere request
to remain steadfast in your love — charitable to all
and faithful first and foremost in doing
your holy will.

Through Christ Our Lord, Amen

© Reverend John G. Hillier, March 10, 2020

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those who are ill in our parish: Ruth Stahl, Maria Nucci,
Mary Hanlon, Barbara Ryan, Carl Messina, Margharete
Saunders, Maureen McCrory, Jan Larusso and Annie Carver
and all those effected by Covid 19
To add a name please call the Parish Office.

For the recently deceased: Regina Blejwas, Richard
Lapointe, and Ann Radner

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



Remember in your prayers the members of
our Armed Services, especially Matthew
Blejwas USMA West Point, grandson of
Walter and Kathryn Blejwas, John F. Stahl of
the US Army, son, Joseph Stahl of the Navy, grandson, and
Eric Hummel of the US Army nephew of Ruth Stahl; Jordan
Weaver of the Air Force, husband of Christy (LaPointe)
Weaver; John Walker and Nicholas Furtzaig of the Air
Force, grandsons of Bernard & Joan O'Reilly; Christopher
Jibilian, US Navy pilot and Matthew Jibilian US Navy Seal,
grand-nephews of Charlie & Pina Jibilian

WHAT'S NEW?

As promised, we replaced the railings on the steps of Saint
Brigid Church and Plaza. The new rails were sorely needed
because the rusted and deteriorated old ones became a
safety risk. The new rails are up to code and should last a
couple of decades!

WHAT'S OLD?

Some parishioners have been amazed to see the "new
altar" at St. Elizabeth Church. In fact, the green marble altar
was originally set in place at St. Brigid Church about
50 years ago, following the Second Vatican
Council. Subsequently it was transferred to St. Elizabeth
Church. Below is a photo of the altar in St. Brigid Church.
The date of the photo is February 9, 1985 at St. Brigid
Church.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A new roof ... at the Parish Center will be installed in the
Spring replacing the present 30-year-old roof.
A new heating system ... will be installed at St. Brigid
Church due to the corrosion of the original heat pipes
installed 84 years ago, in 1936!

LENTEN INSTRUCTIONS—2020

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health:

~*The days of fast and abstinence are*

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

~*All other Fridays of Lent are*

days of abstinence.

~ From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection.

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger. The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat and all meat products.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

"WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED" INITIATIVE

New Jersey Safe Haven Law - Under the New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act a person may give up an unwanted infant anonymously. The purpose of Safe Haven is to protect unwanted babies from being hurt or killed from unsafe abandonment. A distressed parent who is unable to care for an infant can give up custody of a baby less than 30 days old safely, legally and anonymously. All that is required is that the baby be brought to any hospital emergency room, police station, fire station, ambulance, first aid, and rescue squads in New Jersey that are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As long as the child shows no signs of intentional abuse, no name or other information is required. The parent can call the Safe Haven Hotline - 1-877-839-2339 - and get the address and directions for any hospital emergency room, police station, fire station, ambulance, first aid, and rescue squad in the state.



RESOURCES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities has a Facebook page that provides daily updates with short inspirational reflections for people with disabilities, family members and care givers. The site also provides endless resources for those with physical, emotional, cognitive, visual, auditory and other special challenges. To access our Facebook page (even if you are not a member of Facebook), type the following into your search engine:

Diocese of Metuchen Office for Persons with Disabilities.

24 HOUR PRAYER LINE

Our Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities has a 24-hour prayer line for those who desire prayer for special needs. If you, a family member or friend would like to be remembered in prayer for a temporary or permanent illness, please call us and leave a detailed message at (732) 765-6431 or send an email to our office: catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com

SUBSCRIBE TO MARRIAGE NEWS



Published on the internet by the Family Life Office of the U.S. Bishops, it is free and you can select the topics of most interest to you: dating, engagement, marriage preparation, married Life, family Life and parenting. <http://www.foryourmarriage.org>.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry prayerfully works with yarns to create beautiful shawls and lap blankets that enfold those that are sick or in difficult times so they are comforted by God's love. Each item is blessed and holds prayers from the creators' heart and hands. If you would like to request a shawl or lap blanket or are interested in learning more about the ministry, please contact Diane Van Arsdale at 201 841 0899 or email dianevan2@icloud.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Vacation Bible School in partnership with Our Lady of Perpetual Help for children ages 4 through those entering sixth grade will be from July 13 – 17, 9 AM – 12:15 PM at the School of St. Elizabeth. This year's theme is all about Jesus's power pulls us through. We will explore our scripture and traditions, have fun in arts and science, play games, exercise and enjoy great snacks. Registration forms are on online as follows:

Campers (age 4 – entering grade 6) –

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/4107>

Junior Volunteer Registration (entering grade 7- entering grade 12) –

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/4114>

For more information contact Sr. Monique at 908-234-1524.

2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL STEPPING FORWARD IN FAITH: GRACE IN ACTION

Our goal is for every family to participate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Together we are working to become kindling that is set aflame by the Holy Spirit, allowing God's love and power to burn more brightly here in the Diocese of Metuchen. Thank you for actively participating in this mission by your financial support.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)
How often do we invest our time, talent, and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car, and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent, and treasure here on earth.

WORD OF LIFE.

"There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life...Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves'...We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life" (The Gospel of Life 86).

CAMP VERITAS 2020



Camp Veritas is a one-week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held at five locations in 2020; June 29 – July 4

at Clongowes Wood college in Ireland; July 19-25 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY; July 26-Aug 1 in Emmitsburg, MD; Aug2-7 in Lake Placid, FL and August 16-22 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment opens 1/1/2020 and enrollment price for each week is only \$400 per camper. Early bird rates (before 4/1/20) are \$400 and \$450 after that. More details can found at www.campveritas.com.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING & WELLNESS

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Metuchen is offering Counseling and Wellness Services. If you or someone you know needs counseling or is impacted by addiction, we can help. Individual and family therapy for children and adults is available. For an appointment, call (800) 655-9491.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES DONATIONS

Please help support our local programs by donating Clothing, Shoes, and Household items in our donation bin located in the parking lot. Your continued generosity is appreciated. If you have any questions or have a larger pick up, please call our toll free number 1-877-343-3651.

OPEN YOUR HEART AND HOME TO A FOSTER CHILD

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen is seeking loving families to foster children of all ages, who have been abused, neglected or have had multiple out of home placements, through its Treatment Family Homes Program, contracted by New Jersey's Department of Children and Families.

The goal for the children in this program is to leave foster care and achieve permanency through reunification with their families, adoption, or independent living.

Catholic Charities provides these resilient children with individual and family therapy, assistance with educational and medical needs, and independent living skills to help them reach their full potential.

Applicants must have adequate space for a child and complete a home study which includes background checks, references, interviews, and a home inspection.

All Catholic Charities licensed families receive initial and ongoing specialized training, 24-hour emergency access to staff, respite services, monthly reimbursement for the child's expenses and support from experienced families.

For more information about the program, please visit www.ccdom.org or contact Miguelina Nunez at 866-247-HOME (4663) or at mnunez@ccdom.org.



Villa Walsh Academy will be holding their Summer Camp with two sessions offered: Session 1: June 22-June 26 and Session 2: June 29-July 3 of this year. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Camp Director, Shannon Graziani, at summercamp@villawalsh.org.



Holy Week Schedule 2020

*St. Elizabeth Church~ 34 Peapack Rd Far Hills
St. Brigid Church ~129 Main St. Peapack*

Palm Sunday ~ April 5

Masses:

5:00 PM Vigil, April 4 at St. Brigid Church
6:30 PM Vigil April 4 at St. Elizabeth Church
7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:30 AM at
St. Brigid Church
8:30 AM and 10:30 AM at St. Elizabeth Church

Monday ~April 6

Daily Mass 9 AM at St. Elizabeth Church
7:30 PM~ Chrism Mass ~ Blessing of the Holy Oils
At St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen

Tuesday ~April 7

Daily Mass 9 AM at St. Brigid Church

Wednesday ~April 8

Daily Mass 9 AM at St. Elizabeth Church

Holy Thursday ~April 9

7:00 PM Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
At St. Brigid Church
Adoration to follow until 10 PM in St. Brigid Church

Good Friday ~April 10

3 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion
with the distribution of Holy Communion
At St. Elizabeth Church
7 PM Stations of the Cross
At St. Elizabeth Church

Holy Saturday ~April 11

7:30 PM Solemn Easter Vigil at St. Brigid Church

Easter Sunday~ April 12

Masses:

St. Elizabeth Church: 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM
St. Brigid Church: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:30 AM
9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Simulcast in St. Patrick Hall

INSPIRATIONAL SPOT

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." Pope Benedict XVI

CHRISM MASS

Chrism Mass Monday, April 6, 2020

Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen - 4 PM

On Monday, April 6, 2020, Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the Diocese. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless and consecrate the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. Saint Ambrose [340-397] began this custom – which we now call the Chrism Mass – in his Cathedral in Milan. These Holy Oils, which are used to sanctify the Faithful, have been channels of holiness for centuries! The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint infants and adults before their Baptism; the Oil of the Sick is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and Sacred Chrism is used to anoint the head of the newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at his ordination, the head of a bishop at his ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches.

At the Mass, all priests make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service, recommitting themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support.

All are strongly encouraged to join in the ancient, gracefilled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4 PM.

MASS GUILD ENROLLMENT

The Mass Guild is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at either the 8:30 AM Mass at St. Elizabeth or the 9:30 AM Mass at St. Brigid. Your loved ones both living and deceased may be enrolled in the Mass Guild for one year where their intentions will be remembered. Please complete the enrollment form below and return to the Parish Office with the suggested \$10 donation.

St. Elizabeth – St. Brigid

Mass Guild Enrollment

Name to be enrolled: _____ (Please print)

By: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Donation Amount: _____