



## Lifelong Faith Formation

There has been so much change in just these past couple of weeks alone, and probably more to come. We continue adjust to these changes. I know at the beginning of the crisis there was shock or denial, then trying to keep up with the news and changes, then assuming these changes are very temporary, and then adjusting to the ever-changing “normal” and with the kids and you working from home.

Every crisis brings an opportunity. In our faith we have hope and many opportunities to grow and live out our faith. Let us use this time with less distractions and having to “go to places”, as a time to grow in our relationship with God, to dedicate time for prayer and to create “holy moments” at home with the family. We cannot control what is happening around us with regards to the coronavirus, but we can control our response.

We are here to support you and your families. Please feel free to reach out to us, especially via email. We have been gathering resources and looking at creative ways to serve you. These resources are for all ages and are available on our Faith Formation Website:

**[AnnunciationFaithFormation.org](http://AnnunciationFaithFormation.org)**.

For example, we have a link to FORMED. **FORMED** – Faith at Home has Catholic videos for families, adults, children including cartoons. In an effort to assist Catholics everywhere, they are making the FORMED platform free to everyone for the next 40 days. Sign up today and get immediate access to many Catholic movies, faith formation videos, audio talks, and children’s videos. Upon checking out, total will show \$9.99 mo. This charge will only take place after 40 days. You can cancel before then if you wish.

**Mass:** Cardinal Tobin will continue to celebrate Mass livestreamed on Sundays at 12:00 p.m. The livestream can be accessed on the archdiocesan parish support website: [www.rcan.org/parishsupport](http://www.rcan.org/parishsupport) and on archdiocesan social media @NwkArchdiocese or on the Faith Formation website. On our website there is also a link to daily Mass from Word on Fire.

We encourage you to share faith at home and to pray together as a family especially during this difficult time. Families might experience anxiety during this situation. A resource titled “*Talking to Children About Coronavirus, A Parent Resource*” is one of the many resources available on the website.

The Archdiocese of Newark is also providing information. Please see the website: [rcan.org](http://rcan.org).

We appreciate your prayers and continued generosity during these times. Cardinal Tobin has launched an Archdiocese-wide initiative to support our parish community, outreach to those in need, and parishes in response to the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic on everyday life. There is a parish GoFundMe setup to cover the critical needs of our parish community. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to our parish. Visit our parish GoFundMe page via the Archdiocese of Newark website: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/church-of-the-annunciation-paramus>.

If you are one of the many in the front lines of the coronavirus, like our nurses, doctors, healthcare workers, law enforcement, or other essential personal assisting the public, etc., thank you! We pray for you. Let us know how we can be there for you and your families.

Please stay safe and healthy. Let us continue to pray for each other.



The sanctuary lamps were donated in memory of **Pete Ilvento** by Chrissy & Jim Tiedemann.

The altar candles were donated in memory of **Alfie Reitano** by the Binder & Sweisberger families.



*...for those in need of healing...*

Luigi Vene, Margaret and Quinn McVeigh,  
Walter Wyssenski

*...for those who have entered new life...*

Diane Ward, Elly D’Izzia

*...for those serving our country...*

all men and women in our military,  
stationed both here and abroad

MARCH 29, 2020

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## Faith in the time of Coronavirus

James Martin, S.J.

The coronavirus pandemic is confusing and frightening for hundreds of millions of people. That is not surprising. Many around the world are sick and many others have died. Unless the situation changes dramatically, many more will fall ill and die around the globe. This crisis raises serious medical, ethical and logistical questions. But it raises additional questions for people of faith. So I would like to offer some advice from the Christian tradition, Ignatian spirituality and my own experience.

**Resist panic.** This is not to say there is no reason to be concerned, or that we should ignore the sound advice of medical professionals and public health experts. But panic and fear are not from God. Calm and hope are. And it is possible to respond to a crisis seriously and deliberately while maintaining an inner sense of calm and hope.

St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, often talked about two forces in our interior lives: one that draws us toward God and the other away from God. The one that draws us away from God, which he labeled the evil spirit, “causes gnawing anxiety, saddens and sets up obstacles. In this way it unsettles people by false reasons aimed at preventing their progress.” Sound familiar? Don’t lend credence to lies or rumors, or give in to panic. Trust what medical experts tell you, not those who fear monger. There is a reason they call Satan the “Prince of Lies.”

Panic, by confusing and frightening you, pulls you away from the help God wants to give you. It is not coming from God. What *is* coming from God? St. Ignatius tells us: God’s spirit “stirs up courage and strength, consolations, inspirations and tranquility.” So trust in the calm and hope you feel. That is the voice to listen to.

“Do not be afraid!” as Jesus said many times.

**Do not demonize.** The other day a friend told me that when an elderly Chinese man got onto a subway car in New York City, the car emptied out as people started shouting slurs at him, blaming his country for spreading the virus. Resist the temptation to demonize or scapegoat, which increases in time of stress and shortages. Covid-19 is not a Chinese disease; it is not a “foreign” disease. It is no one’s “fault.” Likewise, the people who become infected are not to blame. Remember that Jesus was asked about a blind man: “Who sinned, that this man was born blind?” Jesus’ response: “No one” (Jn 9:2). Illness is not a punishment. So don’t demonize and don’t hate. Any things have been cancelled because of the coronavirus. Love is not one of them.

“Do not be afraid!” as Jesus said many times.

**Care for the sick.** This pandemic may be a long haul; some of our friends and family may get sick and perhaps die. Do what you can to help others, especially the elderly, disabled, poor and isolated. Take the necessary precautions; don’t be reckless and don’t risk spreading the disease, but also don’t forget the fundamental Christian duty to help others. “I was sick, and you came to visit me,” said Jesus (Mt 25). And remember that Jesus lived during a time when people had no access to even the most rudimentary medical care, and so visiting the sick was just as dangerous, if not more, than it is today. Part of the Christian tradition is caring for the sick, even at some personal cost.

And do not close your hearts to the poor and those who have no or limited healthcare. Refugees, the homeless and migrants, for example, will suffer even more than the general population. Keep your heart open to all those in need. Don’t let your conscience become infected, too.

**Pray.** Catholic churches around the world are closing, with Masses and other parish services cancelled by many bishops. These are prudent and necessary measures designed to keep people healthy. But they come at some cost: For many people, this removes one of the most consoling parts of their lives—the Mass and the Eucharist—and isolates them even more from the community at a time when they most need support.

What can one do instead? Well, there are many televised and livestreamed Masses available, as well as ones broadcast on the radio. But even if you can’t find one, you can pray on your own. When you do, remember that you’re still part of a community. There is also the longstanding tradition in our church of receiving a “spiritual communion,” when, if you cannot participate in the Mass in person, you unite yourself with God in prayer.

Remember that you’re still part of a community.

And be creative. You can meditate on the Sunday Gospel on your own, consult a Bible commentary about the readings, gather your family to talk about the Gospel or call friends and share your experiences of how God is present to you, even in the midst of a crisis. The persecuted Christians in the early church prayed and shared their faith in the catacombs, and we can do the same. Remember that Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Mt. 18:20). Remember too that the church is not a building. It is the community.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Trust that God is with you.** Many people, especially those who are sick, may feel a sense of isolation that compounds their fear. And many of us, even if we're not infected, will know people who are sick and even die. So most will naturally ask: Why is this happening?

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may feel a sense of isolation that compounds their fear.

There is no satisfactory answer to that question, which at its core is the question of why suffering exists, something that saints and theologians have pondered over the centuries. In the end, it is the greatest of mysteries. And the question is: Can you believe in a God that you don't understand?

At the same time, we know that Jesus understands our suffering and accompanies us in the most intimate of ways. Remember that during his public ministry Jesus spent a great deal of time with those who were sick. And before modern medicine, almost any infection could kill you. Thus, lifespans were short: only 30 or 40 years. In other words, Jesus knew the world of illness.

Jesus, then, understands all the fears and worries that you have. Jesus understands you, not only because he is divine and understands all things but because he is human and experienced all things. Go to him in prayer. And trust that he hears you and is with you.

Trust in my prayers, too. We will move through this together, with God's help.

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### Readings for the Week



Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 41c-62;  
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21;  
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52, 53, 54,  
55, 56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7;  
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13;  
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9,  
17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11;  
Mt 26:14 - 27:66 or Mt 27:11-54

*"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'"*

JOHN 11:40

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard, the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe, do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need. It opens our hearts to see God's active presence in our daily lives.

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 28

**Deceased members of the Windt & Fett families** req. the Windt family

Sunday, March 29: Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Deceased members of the Pereira, Callwood, & Correoso families** req. Maria Pereira & family  
**Michele Troy** req. Marlene Ottimo  
**Maryann Astuto** req. Dawn & Chip Philibosian

Monday, March 30: Lenten Weekday

**Reynaldo Paraiso** req. Nick & Mary Morin

Tuesday, March 31 Lenten Weekday

**Henry Eugene Speicher, III** req. Matt & Kathy King

Wednesday, April 1: Lenten Weekday

**Irene Ciccarino** req. Fr. Jim Teti

Thursday, April 2: Lenten Weekday / Saint Francis of Paola

**Nicholas Busanic** req. Nick & Mary Morin

Friday, April 3: Lenten Weekday

**Anna Scrivanich** req. John Bussanich

Saturday, April 4: Lenten Weekday / Saint Isadore

**Frances, Frankie & Pat Carlin** req. Nancy Bolsom  
**Marilyn Long** req. Linda & Dan Conway

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**Rose Abrams** req. the Sherry family  
**Living & deceased members of the An family** req. Yoomi An  
**Idania Maury** req. the Hernandez family

Annunciation's Parish Center is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Parish Center Directory**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Fr. Jim Teti	Pastor	jamest@annunciationchurch.org	Ext. 105
Jim Carlo	Director of Music	jvc333@optonline.net	Ext. 111
Judy Fanelli	Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper	judyf@annunciationchurch.org	Ext. 100
Diane Flacomio	Administrative Assistant for Faith Formation	dianef@annunciationchurch.org	201-261-4119
Donna Muscarella	Technology Coordinator	donnam@annunciationchurch.org	Ext. 114
Gladys Pozza	Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation	annunciationfaithformation@gmail.com	201-261-4119
Chris Vaughn	Director of Maintenance		Ext. 109

### **BAPTISM**

The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for infants on the second and fourth weekends of each month, except during the Lenten season. The celebration may take place during the 10:30 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, or at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Parents are invited to contact Judy Fanelli, even before your baby is born, so that participation in our preparation program can be arranged and the baptism planned.

### **RECONCILIATION**

The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in the church on Saturdays between 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Personal appointments for other times are available and can be made by contacting Father Jim.

During the Lenten Season, a communal Celebration of Reconciliation is offered in conjunction with Our Lady of the Visitation parish.

### **VOCATIONS**

Are you being called to priesthood or religious life? As you discern God's calling, explore [www.rcan.org/vocation](http://www.rcan.org/vocation).

### **MINISTRY TO THE ILL AND HOMEBOUND**

At times, physical injury, old age, or debilitating disease prevents our parishioners from participating regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist. During such times, contact with the community of faith is needed more than ever before. We can arrange for you to receive the Eucharist, the sacrament of Reconciliation, and/or the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in your home or hospital room. Please call the Parish Center if you wish to be visited.

### **PARISH MEMBERSHIP**

If you are new to the parish, please submit a completed parish census form. Blank forms are available in the Gathering Space and on our website. Families already registered with the parish are encouraged to keep current their membership information.

### **INITIATION INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) is a process of formation and initiation for those (age seven and older) who have never been baptized and wish to become members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Formation and initiation opportunities also exist for adults baptized into the Roman Catholic Church as infants, but who have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

Christians baptized in Eastern Orthodox Churches or in communions other than Roman Catholic who wish to enter into the fullness of Catholic communion may also participate in the RCIA formation process.

For more information, please contact Father Jim.

### **VISITATION ACADEMY**

Parents wishing to provide their children with a quality Catholic education are encouraged to consider Visitation Academy, a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Located in Paramus and supported by the Catholic parishes of Paramus and Rochelle Park, Visitation Academy offers classes for Grades pre-K3 through eight. For more information, please visit [www.visitationacademyparamus.org](http://www.visitationacademyparamus.org) or call 201-262-6067.

### **INTENTION REQUESTS**

We can spiritually remember an anniversary of marriage, ordination or death, birthday, or other significant milestone for the living or deceased by dedicating the items we use for worship: the sanctuary lamps which burn constantly before the Blessed Sacrament in the church and Holy Family Chapel, the altar candles which remain lit during each liturgical celebration, the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, the Advent wreath candles, and the Paschal candle. Masses may also be offered for a special intention.

A set donation is requested for each intention, a card is provided, and the intention is printed in the bulletin. To request an intention, please visit the Parish Center.