



5th SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." —Jn 11:25

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." Jn 11:25-27

REFLECTION FOR 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

Even though we say that we believe, there is a part of us that doesn't. There are many times in our lives when we experience death, whether it be the physical death of someone we love, a failed relationship, the loss of a job, or a broken dream. As we are going through these death experiences, we can easily find ourselves reaching out to God to make it better and fix it! We think that the proper order of life is to maintain the things of this world, especially those things that are essential to our sense of well-being and security. We do not like change. The grieving that comes from our death experiences can keep us stuck and in despair. If we have lost something or someone of great value, the very meaning and essence of life is lost with them. We need gentle companions to lift us from despair and that is precisely who God desires to be in our life as well.

God calls us out of our tombs, where we have been closed up in fear and despair, and shouts, "Come out!" He desperately wants to show us the path to hope and the new life that is possible after loss and death. But our faith can be weak, and we still prefer to cling to the memory of what we had rather than the joyful possibilities of tomorrow. We sometimes live as if God is not real and that the

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transformative power of His resurrected presence is a story found in the Bible rather than a narrative unfolding in our lives.

God is the God of surprises, not our demise. God opens new possibilities, begins new chapters, creates new verses, and brings us to new heights! We spend so much time and energy ruminating over what we left behind yesterday that we are far too tired to see what can unfold tomorrow. Loving someone new doesn't negate our past loves. Embracing the love of a person, God, or life itself tomorrow doesn't diminish the love of yesterday. Each of our loves is different, and one cannot be replaced by another. They don't cancel each other out. God truly has tended to every detail of our lives, and if we listen to each detail, we find that they all lead us back to Him. Jesus wants us to come out of our closed-up tombs. Are we going to listen this time?

CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Last weekend, we deposited the following donations:

-- Weekly Adult Offerings:	\$2,063.00
(full amount from 33 envelopes brought to rectory or mailed)	
-- Easter Flower Envelopes:	\$ 93.00
-- Catholic Free Pres Subscription:	\$ 30.00
-- Catholic Relief Envelopes:	\$ 45.00
-- Latin America Envelopes:	\$ 10.00
-- Maintenance Fund:	\$ 163.00
-- Memorial Gifts:	\$ 25.00
-- 120 Club Dues:	\$ 100.00
-- Unrestricted Donation:	\$ 100.00

We also received the following online donations:

-- Weekly Adult Offerings:	\$1,343.69
-- Unrestricted Gift:	\$ 50.00
-- Charitable Ministries:	\$ 80.00
-- Liturgical Memorial:	\$ 25.00
-- Maintenance Fund:	\$ 75.12
-- Debt Reduction:	\$ 39.35
-- Latin America:	\$ 25.14

Thank you to all who contributed online and by bringing donations to the rectory or mailing them. It will help us stay financially solvent. Please continue to do so.

REST IN PEACE

Pray for the repose of the souls of *Edward McTigue and all who have died from the CoronaVirus pandemic* and all of our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11
Jn 11:1-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/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

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Governor Baker's **Shelter in Place** advisory means that our office will stay closed until at least April 7th as he has ordered. Feel free to call the rectory if you need to discuss services or email Fr. Monroe at cmonroe@ourladyofangels.org and Fr., Monroe will attempt to help you – or return your call if he is not available when you call. We are all urged to refrain from any unnecessary contact with others and to stay home.

With the **shelter in place** advisory in effect, **the church will no longer be open for private prayer. Pray at home and stay safe!**

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

People are thankfully sending their pledges and onetime gifts directly to 40 Elm Street. As of March 24th, we have raised \$22,870 from 61 donors. That represents 39.8% of our \$57,500 goal to fund the ministries and agencies of charity, education and other pastoral services.

Thank you to all who have contributed. Please consider what you will be able to do and mail your form to the rectory or 49 Elm Street. Anyone who needs a donation envelope, call the rectory and we will mail it to you.

OLA CHARITABLE MINISTRIES NOTE

Our parish Charitable Ministry (formerly St. Vincent de Paul Society) is seeking donations of gift cards/gift certificates for their spring raffle.

Perhaps you received a gift card for Christmas that you don't plan to use. We would be grateful of the donation.

Donations may be dropped off at the rectory in the mail slot at the ramp door or mailed to the rectory. If you would like to be recognized as the donor or would like to make the donation in memory of another, please let us know. Thank you in advance for your donation.

DONATING TO THE PARISH

Thank you to those who donated online last week or mailed or brought envelopes to the rectory.

With the onset of uncertainties due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we remind people that while we are unable to gather for Mass, the parish still has need of financial support to pay our bills.

An excellent way to do this regularly is to use our secure VANCO link for transfer of funds to the parish account from your designated account.

Go to our website and click on the **ONLINE** icon at the top of the homepage. You will be directed to the secure link and it will walk you through creating your personal profile with password. Once you set that up, you can make donation one week at a time manually or set up regular transfers on a monthly or weekly basis. There is a complete list of all parish and second collections for which you can designate your donations.

If you need help setting this up, feel free to contact Fr. Monroe and he will walk you through the process.

You can always mail donations to the rectory as many people now do or drop it in the mail slot at the ramp door of the rectory if you are out doing food shopping.

VIRTUAL MASS PARTICIPATION

There are Masses televised on a daily basis on several Charter channels. The Worcester channel is 193. Also, if you have computer access, we have live stream set up on the homepage of our website and on the diocesan website as well. Go to www.ourladyofangels.org for our website at 9 am Monday thru Friday and 10 am (live) or 6pm (rebroadcast) on Sunday.

HOW TO MAKE A SPIRITUAL ACT OF COMMUNION

Begin by examining your conscience and making a good Act of Contrition. Then pray one of the prayers recommended by the Saints for inviting Christ into your heart. Here is one by Saint Alphonsus Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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.

A Spiritual Communion can never fully take the place of receiving Holy Communion at Mass, but in these extraordinary times it can help us to stay close to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of his Body and Blood and unite ourselves with fellow parishioners with whom we usually worship on Saturday or Sunday.

HOLY WEEK

With Governor Baker's **Shelter in Place Advisory** in effect until at least April 7th, there will obviously be no public Palm Sunday Masses. Fr. Monroe will do a private Mass that day to bless the palms for this year.

We have been given permission to allow people to come to the parking lot and remain in their cars to receive palms. Fr. Monroe will go car to car with gloved hands and distribute the palms through an open car window. He will do this at 10:00 am and 12:00 noon on April 5th.

Bishop McManus will preside at simplified liturgies for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday at St. Paul's Cathedral with a congregation limited to 10 people (musicians, lector and servers) -- Holy Thursday at 7:30 pm, Good Friday at 3:00 pm and Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at 7:30 pm.

Those Liturgies will be broadcast on Channel 193 in Worcester for those who have cable access or by live feed that can be found on the homepage of our website: www.ourladyofangels.org.

120 CLUB

The winner of last week's drawing is **Joe Chakuas - #226**. We will not be having the end of cycle dinner April 4th as planned. Members should have received a letter with the renewal form enclosed. Please drop your renewal envelope at the rectory or mail it to Ray Tremblay as addressed on the envelope.

PLEASE NOTE

All home and hospital visits are prohibited until further notice. There are chaplains at St. Vincent and UMass Memorial hospitals who can tend to spiritual needs of patients. Outside priests are not allowed to enter the hospitals. If you need emotional support, feel free to call Fr. Monroe at 508-791-051. Let us pray for one another.