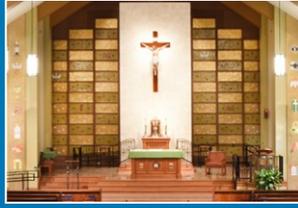


St. Clare of Assisi



460 Reed Street
Clairton, PA 15025

St. Elizabeth of Hungary



One Grove Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Holy Spirit



2603 Old Elizabeth Road
West Mifflin, PA 15122

St. Thomas à Becket



139 Gill Hall Road
Jefferson Hills, PA 15025

MAY 17, 2020 ■ SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A Prayer for Persons Suffering from the Coronavirus

*You shall not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that roams in darkness,
nor the plague that ravages at noon.
Ps 91:5-6*

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus.

May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence.

May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus.

Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health.

Help us to rise above fear.

We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes and in the name of your Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

—Amen

PASTORAL STAFF

Temporary Administrator: Very Reverend Frederick L. Cain, VE

Senior Parochial Vicar: Father William R. Terza

Senior Parochial Vicar: Father Kenneth E. Kezmarsky

Deacon: Gerard A. Como

Pastoral Associate: Mrs. Amy LaMartina



UPDATES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Diocese of Pittsburgh Announces Plans for the Gradual Reopening of Churches



In a conference call with priests and deacons on May 14, Bishop David Zubik shared more details regarding the strategic plan for the gradual reopening of Churches in the diocese, including additions to current directives that will be in effect starting May 15, as well as more clarity regarding the timeline for opening for celebrations of the Holy Mass.

“We are eager to return to the comfort of our Churches and join together in prayer as a source of spiritual strength to support us through the suffering and anxiety caused by the COVID-19 pandemic”, Bishop Zubik said. “We are working with health agencies and in coordination with other religious leaders to proceed in a way that tends to spiritual health, while protecting the physical health of our community.”

Tomorrow, Allegheny, Butler, Greene and Washington counties join Lawrence county in moving to the state’s “yellow” level of reopening. Beaver county remains in “red” until further notice, with the strictest stay-at-home orders still in place. The Commonwealth will continually evaluate the reopening process and make necessary adjustments county by county. This means, our parishes throughout the diocese may be in different phases of reopening at any given time.

Starting May 15, 2020, the first phase of the diocesan reopening plan for the counties in the state’s “yellow” level of reopening includes the following:

- Limited funeral Masses and weddings continue, with cleaning/sanitizing guidelines in place, expanding to groups of no more than 25 people.
- Churches will be permitted to open for private prayer with safety guidelines in place including seating in designated areas only, the use of masks, hand sanitizers and social distancing.
- Churches will be permitted to open for Confessions — Confessionals do not meet public health safety requirements, and as such, Confessions will be heard at posted times and in a manner that preserves the sanctity of the Sacrament. Penitents must practice social distancing and all other safety guidelines.
- Baptisms can be scheduled but with the restriction of one family baptism per each ceremony and no more than 25 people present. Great care must be given to social distancing, wearing masks and sanitization precautions.
- Livestream Masses and prayer services continue.

A diocesan COVID-19 Task Force Team has developed a comprehensive reference guide, call “Moving Forward Together.” This document, which will be released on May 15, details health and safety guidelines that will need to be met as Churches reopen for in-person liturgical celebrations. The guidelines will be reviewed by pastors and priests and posted for the faith community, so they know their part in creating safe prayer environments.

Diocesan leadership will assist and support Pastors as they make decisions on reopening based on government guidelines specific to their county, as well as their own assessment of the ability to meet all necessary health and safety requirements including wearing masks and honoring social distancing requirements.

Moving forward from this phase, the diocese will look to return to the public celebration of the Holy Mass, starting with daily Masses on Monday, June 1, 2020, and a goal of recommencing weekend Masses the weekend of June 6 and 7, 2020. More details will be released closer to those dates.

It fills my heart with so much joy to think of the doors of our Churches opening once again,” said Bishop David Zubik. I’ve heard from so many who have missed praying in their parishes. I’ve missed it, too.”

APPLYING DIOCESAN COVID-19 GUIDELINES IN OUR GROUPING

Each of the churches in our grouping will be open for private prayer from 11:00am – 2:00pm, Monday through Friday.

- There will be seating in designated areas only so that cleaning and proper sanitation can be carried out on a regular basis. The areas open for private prayer will be clearly marked. In addition to daily cleaning and sanitizing, **the use of masks and social distancing (maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet between you and any other person) is required while in the Church.**
- Entrances into and out of the Churches will be as follows:
 - St. Clare of Assisi – use the side entrance closest to the parking lot, near the Tabernacle
 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary – use the side entrance closest to the parking lot, near the candles
 - Holy Spirit – use the main entrance doors (the Oratory will not be open)
 - St. Thomas à Becket – use the main entrance doors closest to the Chapel
- Bathrooms in the Church need to remain locked, as it is not possible for staff to clean and sanitize after each use.

REQUESTING CANDLES LIT IN OUR CHURCHES

- If you would like to have a candle lit for a special intention, please mail your intention(s) with a check/cash to the Church Office. You can also call the Church Office to request that a candle be lit for a special intention.
- In order to prevent possible transmission of germs from touching the candles and/or candle stick lighters, candles will only be lit by staff.

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will continue to be offered on **Saturdays from 10:30 - 11:30 AM in the parking lot of St. Thomas à Becket.** Two priests will be available to hear confessions. Those receiving the sacrament, will pull up to the station where the priest is seated and remain in their vehicle (maintaining at least a distance of 6 feet). Due to the limitations of the outdoor arrangements, anonymous (behind the screen) confessions will not be an option.

FUNERAL MASSES

Limited Funeral Masses continue, with cleaning/sanitizing guidelines in place, expanding to groups of **no more than 25 people.**

WEDDINGS

Limited Weddings continue, with cleaning/sanitizing guidelines in place, expanding to groups of **no more than 25 people.**

BAPTISMS

Baptisms can be scheduled but with the restriction of one family baptism per each ceremony and no more than 25 people present. Great care must be given to social distancing, wearing masks and sanitization precautions.

HOLY MASS

The broadcasting of daily and weekend Masses will continue at this time. Please go to “YouTube” and search for **“parish grouping 225”** for the broadcasting of daily Mass at 9:00 AM. The Saturday anticipated Mass can be viewed at 6:00 PM, then any time afterwards. Moving forward from this phase, the diocese will look to return to the public celebration of the Holy Mass, starting with daily Masses on Monday, June 1, 2020 and a goal of recommencing weekend Masses on the weekend of June 6 and 7, 2020. More details will be released closer to those dates. As a parish grouping, we are currently looking at outdoor Masses at St. Thomas à Becket because of the use of the flat parking lot. There are many more considerations and restrictions that must be addressed as we move forward.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

A diocesan COVID-19 Task Force Team has developed a comprehensive reference guide, called “Moving Forward Together” being released on May 15. It details health and safety guidelines that need to be met as Churches reopen for in-person liturgical celebrations. Guidelines will be reviewed by the clergy and posted for the faith community so they know their part in creating safe prayer environments.

MASS INTENTIONS

Although we are not able to fill our churches for daily and weekend Masses during the COVID-19 outbreak, your previously scheduled intentions are being fulfilled each day by Fr. Cain, Fr. Bill and Fr. Ken.

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Offered By
(Vigil) Saturday, May 16	8:30 AM	Holy Spirit	Special Intention	
	4:00 PM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Zeke Gentile	Family
	4:30 PM	Holy Spirit	Louis & Ann Siebert, Anna Mae & Ed Rietsk & Anthony & TJ Brusco	Patricia Brusco
	5:30 PM	St. Thomas à Becket	Deceased Members of the Lettiero Family	Louise Lettiero
Sunday, May 17 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	8:00 AM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Pauline Capanna	Carol & Don Collins
	9:00 AM	St. Clare of Assisi	Dolores & Frank Senko	Family
	9:30 AM	St. Thomas à Becket	Barbara Gurecka	Her Loving Husband & Children
	10:30 AM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Rocco Curinga	Family
	11:00 AM	Holy Spirit	Daryl, Matthew & Julia Maurer	Sharon Maurer
	Noon	St. Thomas à Becket	William Loris	Beloved Son, Nick
Monday, May 18	7:30 AM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Frank Zahler	Family
	8:30 AM	St. Clare of Assisi	Vincent DiLonardo	Paul & Marie Perlick
Tuesday, May 19	8:30 AM	Holy Spirit	Deceased Members of the Maurer & Soltis Families	Sharon Maurer
	9:00 AM	St. Thomas à Becket	Bob Graham	Wife, Lorraine
Wednesday, May 20	7:30 AM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Bill Teschke	Wife, Polly
	9:00 AM	St. Thomas à Becket	Edward Tanczos	Fox Family
Thursday, May 21	8:30 AM	Holy Spirit	For the End of Abortion	
	9:00 AM	St. Thomas à Becket	Joseph & Rose Tranter	Daughters
Friday, May 22	7:30 AM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Paul Roscosky	Elsie Roscosky
	8:30 AM	St. Clare of Assisi	Larry Garuch	Friends
Saturday Morning (Vigil) Saturday, May 23	8:30 AM	Holy Spirit	In Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Father Pat Barkey	A Parishioner
	4:00 PM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	John "Jack" Jonas	Laverne Jennings
	4:30 PM	Holy Spirit	For the Recovery of Those Suffering with COVID-19	
	5:30 PM	St. Thomas à Becket	Deceased Members of the Flavin Family	Peggy Flavin



We hope for many things: passing an exam, finding our true love, securing sustainable work, or surviving an illness. We often seek to have God be a part of what we hope for and desire, almost trying to convince Him that our agenda is what is ultimately important. While our particular hopes may appear to be what needs to be achieved in order for us to be happy, they really are not. Our lesser, more personal hopes can distract us from true hope.

When God became a human being, a powerful message was sent: all that is authentically human is found in the divine. As the human Jesus lived and died in order to show us that he truly is the universal Christ, we have to keep our sight focused on our eternal truth and destiny and who we truly

are. We have to be careful when we allow our earthly concerns to distract us. True hope is found when we place our trust in Christ's promises and don't rely on our own strength. True hope focuses on striving toward the fulfillment of God's promises and not simply on achieving what we think we need in this life. Hope always travels with two friends — faith and love. In this trio of virtues, we find the very presence of God born in every human being. These are God's greatest gifts, and they lead us to the fullness of His presence.

As with faith and love, we cannot see hope with just our human eyes. We don't carry this virtue within us to use solely for our own personal agenda. Hope is not something that simply comes with the human package. As with faith and love, hope is a gift that is given to us to draw us closer to our eternal truth. Faith, hope, and love are signs that there is something far greater going on in us and something greater to persevere in obtaining. The true divine gift of hope is what will endure any hardship we encounter, especially those that will come from authentically living the Gospel. With all that is happening in our lives, in our church, and in our world, what is the reason for our hope? Ask God for the fortitude to see His eternal gift as the reason we get up in the morning and do the things we do.

REST IN PEACE

Remember our faithful departed in your prayers ...

Anna Mae Cathell

March 10, 1932 - May 6, 2020

Irene Dalton

August 13, 1925 - May 14, 2020

Joan R. Jaskolski

May 22, 1928 - May 13, 2020

John T. Krockner

July 6, 1937 - May 4, 2020

Robert M. Lamars

January 15, 1960 - May 5, 2020

Marianne C. Lewonas

August 2, 1944 - May 4, 2020

Joseph O'Brien

May 31, 1941 - May 4, 2020

Violet Stokes

August 1, 1938 - May 11, 2020

*May all souls of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

VIGIL LIGHTS



The Vigil Light at the Tabernacle
at **St. Thomas à Becket Church**
will burn this week

In Loving Memory of William Loris
from Beloved Son, Nick

The Vigil Light at the Tabernacle
in the **Chapel at St. Thomas à Becket Church**
will burn this week

In Loving Memory of Joseph "Bill" O'Brien
from Rose Sullivan

The Vigil Candles at the Tabernacle
and at the Statue of St. Clare
at **St. Clare of Assisi Church**
will be lit this week

***In Loving Memory of
Freda & Charles Moorhouse***
From Daughter, Carol

Have a Prayer Request? Submit them by emailing:

ourprayerrequests225@gmail.com

If you would like to be one of our "Pray-ers"
you must be registered on Flocknote.

Prayer must be persistent —Padre Pio



May 12, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish

As we are all aware, the Diocese of Pittsburgh created an ambitious Capital Campaign to support the **On Mission** effort to raise \$125,000,000 to help create vibrant parishes to make a vibrant diocese; support Catholic Education, Catechesis and Faith Formation, Evangelization and Stewardship; and Our People Caring. The Campaign was very successful by any measure, but no one could have foreseen the incredible events that have threatened to shut down the hopes and dreams of those early days of movement toward those visionary goals. If we look again, we realize the life of the Church is the life of Jesus Christ in His world. So even as death could not hold or conquer Him, so human scandal and even a pandemic will not silence His voice or activity of His Church, or silence those who have become brothers and sisters through their life in the Church. In just a few short weeks, we will become a new parish with our brothers and sisters of Clairton, West Mifflin and Jefferson Hills who bring the gifts of St. Clare, Holy Spirit and St. Thomas à Becket Parishes to enrich our common future.

In the Capital Campaign, the parishioners of St. Elizabeth of Hungary were challenged with raising \$1,308,000 toward the Diocesan Campaign. The parish combined this challenge with their own campaign to “Remember, Renew and Renovate” the parish Church, in anticipation of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the parish (1942-2017). The total campaign would seek to raise \$3,500,000. The parish portion of the funds would allow for the renovation of the sanctuary, refurbishing of the pews, upgrades to the mechanical systems, improving of lighting, redesign and extension of the narthex and choir loft, new doors and the creation of handicap ramps. As we look at this beloved Church today, these dreams have been realized. Because of the generosity of the community, \$509,387 remains in the Capital Campaign Fund of St. Elizabeth Parish.

We remember also the goals that were set for the whole diocese and that this parish has always been more than just the Church building. It has also been an educational center for an elementary program, for many years a high school, a center for Catechesis and Formation, a youth center and various social service and outreach programs. Just like the Church, the buildings that house these critical vibrant parish activities have also aged and are now in urgent need of roof repairs to shelter our community activities.

Several weeks ago, we called a joint meeting of the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils of our grouping 225 to discuss the issues and how we might cover the costs in these difficult days. The Councils understood the need, heard the proposals and affirmed the proposal that we draw monies from the Capital Campaign balance to cover the costs of this project. It is our hope that all those who contributed to the campaign might be fully supportive of this move. Our cost will be \$220,000. If you have any questions or comments, please forward them to the parish, or email by Monday, May 25, 2020.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Frederick L. Cain, VE

Administrator Pro-Tem

PARISH DIRECTORY | PARISH NEWS

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Phone: 412-233-7870 ♦ Fax: 412-233-0742 ♦ Email: stclareadmin@comcast.net

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

Phone: 412-882-8744 ♦ Fax: 412-882-8320 ♦ Email: stelizabethchurch@st-elizabeth.org

HOLY SPIRIT

Phone: 412-346-0477 ♦ Fax: 412-466-4983 ♦ Email: hsrectory2603@comcast.net

ST. THOMAS À BECKET

Phone: 412-655-2885 ♦ Fax: 412-655-0615 ♦ Email: becketst@comcast.net

There is a new, simple way to get reminders and up to date information for our parish grouping...

FLOCKNOTE

Flocknote is a tool for us to keep our parishioners informed as well as send specific groups and ministries information about what is most important to them. For example:

- Youth Ministry will receive texts or email reminders for the next gathering
- Faith Formation families will be notified if class is cancelled due to weather
- Individuals can get a reminder message about upcoming events, Bible studies, fish fries, and more!



We ♥ love
having you as part of our Flock

Keep in touch with us
via email and text



Text
techscatholic
to 84576

OR

Visit us online at:



techscatholic.flocknote.com

IT IS EASY TO SIGN UP!

1. Go to www.flocknote.com/techscatholic
2. Fill out the fields with your name, email, and cell number (your email and/or cell number is never visible to any member of the group).
3. Choose the group(s) you would like to receive messages from.

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time