

The Roman Catholic Parishes of Cape Elizabeth, Scarborough, and South Portland, Maine

Dear Parishioners,

We have entered the sacred Triduum, a time when we celebrate the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Out of suffering and death comes new life! Those who are able to be with us during the Triduum and Easter will see our gatherings are different. Our celebrations will be solemn, and simple. The one thing the Covid-19 pandemic cannot take from us is hope in the resurrection of Jesus.

See below the schedule of the remainder of the Holy Week celebrations. They will be posted to **cluster22.org**:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Celebration</u>	<u>Videotaped Location</u>	<u>Posted to website by</u>
Thursday, April 9	Holy Thursday	St Maximilian Kolbe	5:30PM
Friday, April 10	Good Friday	St John & Holy Cross	3:30PM
Saturday, April 11	Easter Vigil	St Maximilian Kolbe	8PM (Live Streamed)
Sunday, April 12	Easter Sunday	St Bartholomew	7:30AM

The only way to see the Easter Vigil at 8PM on Saturday, April 11, is on our Facebook page. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/C22Cparishes>.

On Holy Saturday, April 11, Maine Catholics are invited to join in an act of solidarity with one another and all people of good will at 7:30 p.m., the hour of the sunset, by standing outside their homes with a lit candle, flashlight, or other source of light. At that time, they are asked to offer a silent prayer and reflection for those in the world who have died from COVID-19, for the consolation of their families, and for the healing of our world and an end to the crisis. Please join me in this special prayer.

After this prayer and reflection, we will be live streaming the Easter Vigil from St Maximilian Kolbe at 8:00PM. Access it by going to our Facebook page given above.

Now is the time to submit your Rice Bowls. To minimize handling all the materials during the COVID 19 pandemic, do not turn in cash, coins or the rice bowls themselves. Please remit a check made out to the Church you attend for the amount of your Rice Bowl donation making a notation that is for "Rice Bowl" and mail it to the cluster offices at 150 Black Point Road, Scarborough, Me 04074.

Fr. Innocent received a call Saturday, April 4, from his brother, Jude, informing him that his father, Joseph E. Okozi, passed away in Asaba, Nigeria after a brief illness. He was being treated for diabetes (not COVID-19). He was 89 years old. Pray for his father that he may be at rest in God's warm embrace. Pray for Fr. Innocent, his mother and his family that they may have comfort as they mourn his passing.

In last week's letter we stated that Fr. Innocent was projected to leave on May 1 for his new assignment at Southdown Institute. The Institute was able to secure him an essential status and permission to cross the border on Wednesday, April 15. Since we are unable to say goodbye in person, cards can be sent to:

Fr. Innocent Okozi
Southdown Institute
18798 Old Yonge Street
Holland Landing, Ontario L9N 0L1
CANADA

The next step in becoming one canonical parish is to choose a new name. Parishioners already have been making suggestions! I will be accepting your recommendations until Friday, April 17. The criteria are that it must be a Saint name, a title for Mary, or a significant event/name of something in our Church tradition, e.g., Holy Eucharist, Ascension of Lord, etc. We will not be able to include a name that is currently being used in the diocese. Please email your suggestion(s) to me at paul.stefanko@portlanddiocese.org or call Kris Benson (883-0334 x227). I will put the list of suggestions into SurveyMonkey (an online survey tool) and then email it to you to select your top three choices. Each family member can submit their recommendations. The beauty of SurveyMonkey is it tabulates your selections for us. The top five selections will be submitted to the Bishop who will make the final selection.

Be safe and keep one another in prayer. May the gift and blessings of Easter bring you renewed hope, faith, love and joy. Fr. Innocent, the staff and I extend our prayers and greetings for a blessed Easter!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul F. Stefanko". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Msgr. Paul F. Stefanko