

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

Dear Parishioners,

James 5:7 says: *Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.* As we yearn for the day we will be able to gather together again around the altar to be fed with the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are encouraged to wait in patience.

Those who joined us for Mass this weekend will have noticed a few changes. First of all, I announced that Bishop Robert P. Deeley has appointed Fr Peter Shaba, SMA as parochial vicar at our cluster, effective August 1. Fr. Shaba is currently parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Bridgton and St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Norway. He is a member of the Society of African Missions (SMA). This is the same community in which Fr Innocent was a member.

You may have noticed a change in the music this past couple of weeks. Up until Easter, the publishing companies had given us free license to broadcast any of the music in our books. After April 15, if we want to use the same music, we would have to purchase a license to live stream or tape our Masses and make them available to you at home. After some debate, we decided that our parishes could better spend that money in other ways and chose to use the music that is freely available to us. You will find many of the melodies familiar, but the words may be different. Please print or open the worship aid to assist you in participating.

You will notice another change after this week. Over the course of the quarantine, I have rotated the celebration of Mass in our three churches so that all parishioners would be able to pray virtually in their spiritual home. From this experience, we have learned that the light and sound quality at St Bartholomew's is better for videotaping. We want the best quality for your participation. Therefore, going forward all celebrations will be videotaped at St. Bartholomew Church.

It is hard to believe that May is almost here. We don't want to forget that May is the month of Mary. As parishes, we will be celebrating Mary in several ways.

We will begin the month by joining Bishop Deeley and all the U.S. Bishops in a Renewal of the Consecration of the United States of America to the Blessed Virgin Mary in response to the pandemic -- May 1, at 3:00 PM. A liturgy guide will be available to assist the faithful who may join in by tuning into the USCCB's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/usccb) at that time. The prayer service will also be broadcast live on EWTN-TV and Relevant Radio affiliates, including 106.7 FM in Portland, 105.7 FM in Springvale/Sanford, 97.5 FM in Fort Kent, 90.3 FM in Bangor, 89.7 FM in Bath/Brunswick, 89.5 FM in Augusta, and 1390 AM in northern Maine; at www.relevantradio.com/listen; or on smartphones by downloading the Relevant Radio app.

Starting on May 1, at 5:00 PM, you can join parishioner Amanda Meir, in the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/C22Cparishes. She will be offering this opportunity every Friday in May (May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th). We will be livestreaming, but you will be able to access the video afterwards as well. Please include any prayer requests in the comments of the video.

If you are interested in learning more about Mary, Formed has a program looking at Mary's role throughout scripture. The link to the sessions is here: <https://watch.formed.org/lectio-mary-with-dr-brant-pitre>. If you would like to join a discussion group that will be gathering on Thursdays at noon starting on May 7 for 4 weeks, contact Michelle Valcourt at michelle.valcourt@portlanddiocese.org.

For more opportunities, check out the Virtual Parish page of our website.

Reminder: You have until Thursday, April 30, to make your three selections for the new canonical parish name. The link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F992CYJ>. I encourage you to participate in this process.

Be assured of my prayer support and I ask that you pray for me and all our staff who continue to serve on your behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul F. Stefanko". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Msgr. Paul F. Stefanko