



**Intentions**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 21<sup>st</sup> ~ 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**3/21 SATURDAY VIGIL:**

*4th Sunday of Lent*

*Anne & Joseph Elkins*

**3/22 4th Sunday of Lent**

*The People of the Parish*

*Marjorie Ann Sweitzer*

**3/23 MONDAY**

*Poor Souls*

**3/24 TUESDAY**

*Marjorie Oosterman*

**3/25 WEDNESDAY**

*DeCelle Family*

**3/26 THURSDAY**

*Karen Bishop Balog*

**3/27 FRIDAY**

*Intentions of Jim Irwin*

The Magnificant prayer book is offering free apps for your spiritual reading.

Please continue to say the rosary daily.

Our church will be open for anyone who would like to pray.

Mass with Bishop Robert Barron  
[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)

*Dear Parishioners,*

This fourth Sunday of Lent is called traditionally in the Church, *Laetare Sunday*. Each Sunday in Lent has its name derived from the Sunday's introit. The first Sunday is called Invocabit; the second, Reminiscere; the third, Oculi; the fourth, Laetare; the fifth, Judica; the sixth, Palm Sunday. This fourth Sunday's name is taken from the Sunday's introit:

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. (Isaiah 66:10-11)*

Talking about being joyful this time when coronavirus pandemic has changed the entire course of the history of the world will sound like a discordant note in a beautiful music. Why should someone be talking about joy when the whole world is in turmoil? When businesses, schools, places of worship, production industries, the social life and the beauty of our communities are closed down, why should someone be talking about joy? When virtually everything that make life beautiful have been taken away from us by coronavirus, is there anything left to be joyful for?

The book of Habakkuk 3:17-19 says, *“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign LORD is my strength....”* Having lost everything which we hold so dear in this trying moment, God is calling each of us to a deeper union with Him. Tough times as now are when true love are either strengthened or weakened. We may not see each other for a period of time because of this situation in the world that is plaguing our dear country; let us use this time to develop the family joy that will sustain us this period.

The Lord restored the sight of a man born blind; May we use this time to light our families with joy, bringing back family prayers and love for one another that we have lost to activism. May God protect you and your family from harm. Fr. Jon and I will be offering Masses and prayers for God's protection on you! BE JOYFUL! BE NOT AFRAID! God bless you!

Yours in Christ and Mary,  
Fr. Joseph

Effective Friday, March 20, all regularly scheduled public celebrations of the Catholic Mass, sacraments and devotions are suspended until further notice. Priests of the Diocese of Burlington will continue to celebrate Mass privately for the intentions of their community and the Church. Baptisms, funerals and weddings may take place but will be strictly limited in attendance to immediate family members.

I have taken this course of action following the advice of local public officials and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to limit gatherings to 10 people. While this is a difficult time for the faithful, we must all do our part to ensure the health and well-being of the larger community by helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary.

Plans are moving forward to “live-stream” a local celebration of the Mass daily beginning with this Sunday, March 22 at 10 AM. Please check the Diocesan website at <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/covid-19/> for all TV Mass options, resources to keep Sunday Holy and the latest updates.

#### **LISTING OF CATHOLIC CLOSINGS AND OPENINGS**

Parish offices – limited hours  
Diocesan offices - open with limited staffing  
Parish food pantries - open (take away only)  
Parish soup kitchens - open (take away only)  
Vermont Catholic Charities - open  
Parish Churches - open daily (please consult local church for scheduled hours)  
Catholic schools – closed until April 15 (remote and online learning)  
Parish religious education schools – closed (some remote and online learning)  
Perpetual Adoration Chapels - closed

I ask that you pray daily the Pope’s prayer to the Virgin Mary for protection from this pandemic (see [www.vermontcatholic.org/covid-19/](https://www.vermontcatholic.org/covid-19/)). Please continue to support your parish and the Diocese by giving online or via mail to ensure we remain financially stable during these difficult times.

My motto, "Trust in the Lord", has gotten me through many difficult times. Lean on the Lord and know that He will guide you through to better days.

### **Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary for Protection During the Coronavirus Pandemic**



**O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.**

**Amen.**

**Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the prayers of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.**

**Pope Francis**