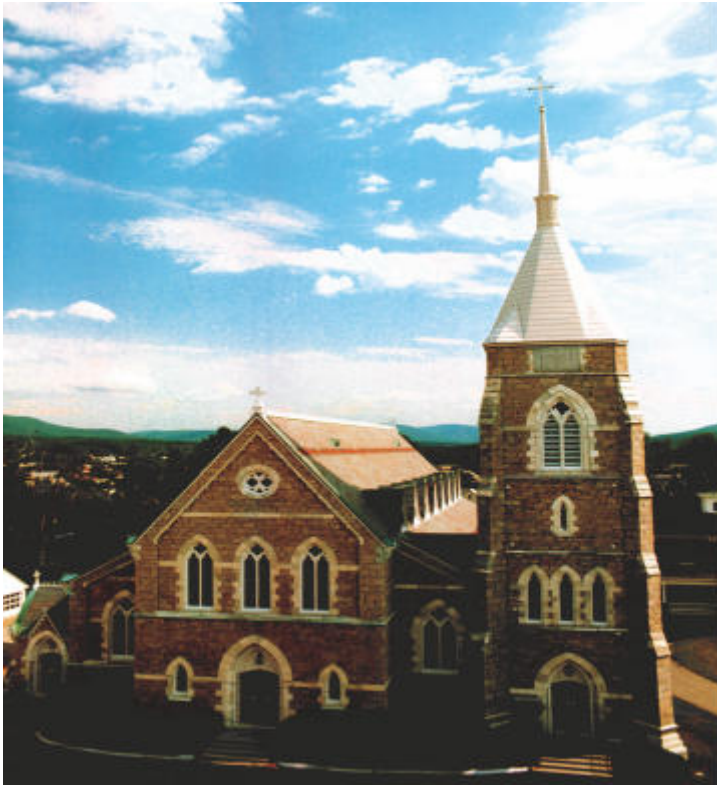


**Second Sunday of Easter—April 19, 2020**

# St. Peter Parish

**A ministry of the Capuchin Franciscans,  
Province of St. Mary, New York and New England**



**Fr. Thomas R. Houle, O.F.M. Cap.  
Pastor**

**Fr. Maurice Moreau, O.F.M. Cap.  
In Residence**

## **Sunday Masses:**

Saturday—4:15 PM

Sunday—11:00 AM

**Suspended until further notice**

134 Convent Ave.  
Rutland, VT 05701

Phone: (802) 775-1994

Fax: (802) 775-0178

Parish Website:

[StPeter.VermontCatholic.org](http://StPeter.VermontCatholic.org)

## **Weekday Masses**

Chapel of our Lady

**Monday—4:45 PM—Except Holidays**

**Suspended until further notice**

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

## **Sacrament of Matrimony**

Please call the Parish Office at least six months in advance to make arrangements.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**By appointment**

## **New Parishioners**

Please call Parish Office to register.

## **Religious Education**

DRE, Michael Audette

Email: [maudette@msjvermont.org](mailto:maudette@msjvermont.org)

Please visit parish website or Facebook  
(Saint Peter Parish Religious Education)

## **Parish Council Members**

Sue Ahearn, Chair

Sheree Bloch, Secretary

Dcn. Bob Paolucci

Sue Audette

Joe Barbagallo

(Fin. Council Rep.)

Nick Denardo

Joe Eno

Laura Goodrich

Mary Gunn

Josef Peterson

Nichole Peterson

## **Finance Council Members**

Joe Barbagallo

Anna Maria Barucco

Jim Davidson

George Hooker

Bob LeBlanc

Gary Randall

## **Liturgy Committee Members**

Frank D'Auria, Chair

Dcn. Bob Paolucci

Sue Ahearn

Esterina Bergendahl

Beth Charles

Colleen D'Auria

Joe Eno

*A Note of Thanks...*

Dear Friends,

Words cannot express how blessed we have been to be part of the St. Peter Parish family. Our ministries here gave us great joy and comfort. We will miss all of you in so many ways; you have been a very special part of our lives. We had hoped to convey our gratitude for all your good wishes, prayers and friendship and to say good-bye in person, but that was not meant to be.

We will cherish all of our many memories as well as all the kindness and care you have for each other. Thank you for the beautiful and generous gifts of the Boston Rocker and cutting board. Please know that we will always hold you in our thoughts and prayers with much joy. May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

*Frank and Colleen D'Avia*

**OFFICE CLOSED TILL FURTHER NOTICE**

In accordance with the Governor's "Stay Home—Be Safe" Executive Order, our parish staff is not permitted to come in to work, and so the office is closed. Fr. Tom is abiding by this order to the best of his ability as well, so he is almost always available, and delighted, to take your phone calls.

**WEEKLY BULLETINS AVAILABLE**

Even though we are not able to meet as a congregation, the weekly Bulletin is a good means of communication; please know that they are available at 2 of the church entrances—one at the handicapped entrance and the other at the side door entrance nearest to our outdoor sign announcing Mass times etc. as well as being online on our parish website.

**PALMS**

My apologies that the Palms were not made available on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, after having announced in our March 29<sup>th</sup> Bulletin, that they would be. On Tuesday afternoon, April 1<sup>st</sup>, we received notification from Bishop Coyne that Palms were not to be made available until further notice; the rationale behind this was to keep people in place—an effort to not give people a reason to leave their homes—due to the fact that all news reports were predicting that in the weeks coming, the Corona Virus could be extremely severe, and the best way to avoid it would be by staying at home. The same rationale applies to church doors being locked. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone.

**CALVARY CEMETERY**

As is posted at the cemetery, and in accordance with the book of rules and regulations, Calvary Cemetery officially re-opens on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Prior to that date, our cemetery caretaker (Tom Poczub) prepares the cemetery for its official opening by doing a spring cleaning. He will remove all boxes and wire flower holders that are remaining in the next few weeks and place them at the vault, where they can be retrieved if you wish to keep them. Whatever remains at the vault and is not claimed by April 30<sup>th</sup> will be discarded. As long as we are at a "Stay Home and Be Safe" executive order, due to the Corona Virus, there will be no funerals or burials until this order is lifted.

**THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

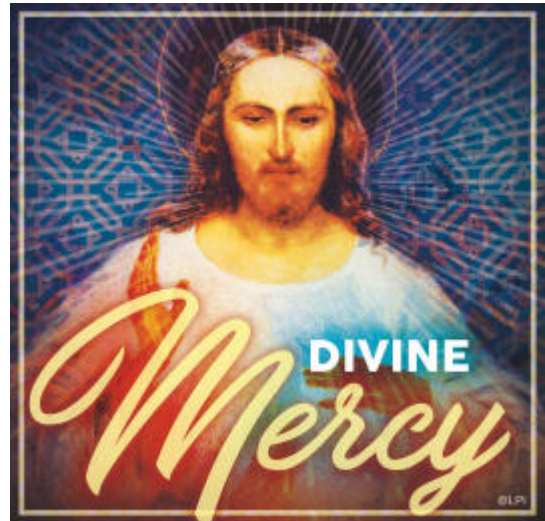
So many parishioners have been so faithful in sending in or dropping off their weekly Offertory envelopes; the report in today's Bulletin of the past several weekends reflects your generosity and loyalty to the parish so very clearly, even during these most difficult times. Thank you so much. Your continued contributions are very deeply appreciated.

**ST. PETER COLLECTION REPORT  
WEEKENDS OF MARCH 21/22 AND MARCH 28/29**

Offertory 3,695.00

**ST. PETER COLLECTION REPORT  
WEEKENDS OF APRIL 04/05 AND APRIL 11/12**

Offertory 6,402.00  
Easter Collection 2,140.00



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

### MEDITATING ON DEATH DURING A TIME OF PANIC

There can be many benefits of what is called, *memento mori*, Latin for *meditation on death*. One is to provide an opportunity for God's grace to help us to find and bring to light, in a time of darkness and anxiety, brought on by the Corona Virus, by placing our attention on the ways we live and think. The COVID-19 Virus has helped us all to think and meditate on what death can mean to us. As the virus spreads across the world, death has, to some extent, entered everyone's lives. We are experiencing a communal *memento mori*, a constant, ever-present reminder of death.

And so at a time like this it is good to be reminded that God always brings good out of evil, and he can use this pandemic for our holiness, whatever the outcome and end results are of this epidemic. And so, we must invite him into our lives so that we can prepare for the outcome, for ourselves and for others. We can do this through meditation, in the context of prayer; the following questions are offered as a guide that can hopefully serve as prayer prompts:

- How is God calling me to reach out to the wider community in this time of fear, illness and financial instability? What risks to my life is God calling me to make to serve his people?
- How is God asking me to exercise extreme caution in order to prevent the spread of this virus, especially to the vulnerable and weak? How can I value life and even perhaps prepare for death?
- How is God asking me to listen to the anxieties and fears of those around me and to express my own?
- Take some time in prayer to reflect on the fragility and beauty of human life in general, and of your life in particular. Then take time to reflect on the inevitability of your death. Imagine yourself beneath the cross and converse with Jesus about all that comes up.
- Consider the question, "Am I ready to die?" Make an examination of conscience and go to confession, if possible. If you can't go now, make a resolution to go as soon as possible and express to God your remorse and contrition.

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In these days when Mass is not publicly celebrated, thereby Holy Communion is also not available, spiritual communions may be offered. If you are able to watch Mass on TV, at communion time you can offer the following prayer to make this spiritual communion.

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You **into my soul**. Since I cannot at this moment 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.*

### CAPUCHIN NEWS

You may or may not know but the Capuchin friars had their triennial meeting, called a Chapter, scheduled for the last week of May, since three years ago; it is at this gathering that we elect our new leadership team (Provincial and 4 Councilors) for the next three years. Due to the Coronavirus, this gathering of the friars has been postponed, thus making several aspects of our Capuchin lives unclear at this time. However, what is clear is that our current Superiors have notified the Bishops of the Diocese of Manchester (NH) and Rockville Center (NY) on Long Island that the Capuchins will be withdrawing from the parishes in which they are currently ministering by September of this year. Both of the parishes have an element of Spanish speaking parishioners; the one in Manchester, is a multi-cultural parish, and the Capuchins just do not have the friars needed to minister in such settings. This is sad news for both, the Capuchins and the dioceses, since the Capuchins have been in these places for many years. At this writing it is safe to say that the Capuchins will be remaining the diocese of Burlington (VT); it is good to be able to end this bit of news, on a happy note!

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Since the year 2000, the Sunday following Easter has been designated by Pope St. John Paul II as "*Divine Mercy Sunday*". This feast day celebrates the merciful love of God that has been revealed most completely through Jesus. On this Sunday, the same Gospel is read every year, indicating it has something very important to tell us about what we are celebrating. It includes two very similar appearances of the risen Lord, and Jesus' theme song is "*Peace be with you.*" Additionally, both times that Jesus appeared among the disciples, they thought they were in a well-locked room. Jesus twice made a point of showing them the scars of his passion. The disciples were still in the dark, yet breaking through the barriers of their fear and confusion, it was the wounded-risen Christ who appeared to them to offer them that peace that he had promised them at the Last Supper. Even though these were the very disciples who had abandoned and denied Jesus, his offer of peace was a profound expression of mercy. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, the reading's of today's Mass remind us that God's mercy is indeed a sign of God's steadfast love, and so, for this, we are able to sing and shout, "*This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.*" If there was ever a time in our lifetimes that we needed to implore God's mercy, it is now to bring an end to the coronavirus pandemic.

### DEADLINE FOR THE BULLETIN

There is a deadline each week for information to be put into our bulletin. It is Monday by noon. Holiday bulletin deadlines may vary.

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