

Saint Mary's Parish

**Weeks of
Mar. 21-April 5,
2020**

PARISH STAFF

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4th SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Due to current public health restrictions for the Covid-19 Coronavirus, all public Masses are suspended

CONFESSIONS

All Confessions are suspended

BAPTISMS

Currently suspended except for emergency situations

MARRIAGES

Engaged couples please call the Rectory at least six months in advance to make arrangements for their wedding.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office

Liturgy Schedule

(currently all public masses are suspended)

Saturday, March 21: Lenten Weekday

Sunday, March 22: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Monday, March 23: Optional Memorial of St. Turbicus of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Tuesday, March 24: Optional Memorial of St. Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr

Wednesday, March 25: Solemnity of The Annunciation of the Lord

Thursday, March 26: Lenten Weekday

Friday, March 27: Lenten Weekday, Day of Abstinence

Saturday, March 28: Lenten Weekday

Sunday, March 29: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Monday, March 30: Lenten Weekday

Tuesday, March 31: Lenten Weekday

Wednesday, April 1: Lenten Weekday

Thursday, April 2: Optional Memorial of St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

Friday, April 3: Lenten Weekday, Day of Abstinence

Announced mass intentions can be rescheduled to a later date or celebrated privately by Fr. Michael. The secretary will be calling those who have requested mass intentions to determine how they would like to have their intention celebrated. If you have an announced mass intention coming up, please call Peggy at 566-8843, ext. 2, to let her know what you want to do.

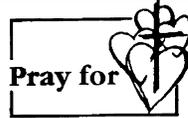
New **Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers** are needed. Please consider offering yourself to this important ministry of service. Training sessions will be announced when public masses resume.

The **Shrine of Our Lady** has been closed until further notice due to Covid-19 restrictions at the request of the Bishop. We will open it as soon as we are able.

The **Catholic Life Conference** has been rescheduled to **Saturday, October 21** (8:30am-5:30pm) at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield. All of the original participants have agreed to return - Dr. Scott Hahn, Hudson Bylow, Trish Short and the musical team Popple. More information to follow.

2020 Annual Catholic Appeal *Our Faith, Our Future* is the theme of the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal. During this time of public health emergency, the poor are particularly vulnerable. Your donation is vital now more than ever! Make your pledge using the envelope you received in the mail, or go online to: www.diospringfield.org and click the Appeal link. *The visit of Kathryn Buckley-Brawner, Executive Director of the Catholic Charities Agency of the Diocese of Springfield, originally scheduled for this weekend, has been postponed.*

The Annual Catholic Appeal **In-Pew Commitment Weekend** has been re-scheduled to April 18-19th.



Donald Karlie Lisa Kane Ethel Thomas
Kathy Ranahan Alicia Michael Collins
James Leon Tom Robertson Jean Albano
Stella Pyrek Amanda Lee Chuck Powell
Patty Ehlers Thomas Accord Max Daniel Ann Maraschino
Diane Rodriguez Karen Ralph Terry Beane Marilyn Francoeur
Elaine Jones John Haley Samantha Thans Patrick Toomey
Victoria Whalen Lucie Rose Courtois Patricia Coughlin
Christopher McMahon Carol Green Charlene Moore
Elinore Canterbury Matt Briggs Daniel Nitch

Due to the cancellation of Masses, we do not have a Collection Report for the weekend of March 14-15th.



The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is continuing its collection of **new pajamas** (women's and children's) for the YWCA Women's Shelter. Until the Church reopens, you can bring your donation to the parish office *during parish office hours only*.

Applications are being taken for the **Stanley Jez Scholarship for Catholic students at UMass Amherst majoring in Forestry & Environmental Sciences**. For more information, contact Financial Aid Services, 243 Whitmore Admin. Bldg. 181 Presidents Dr. Amherst. 413-545-0801 or finaid@finaid.umass.edu. Deadline is Fri. May 1st.

Holy Week Schedule—Tentative

The following is our tentative Holy Week schedule, assuming that the church is open again at that time:

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Apr. 4-5, Masses at 4:00 PM (Sat.), 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM (Sunday) with Palms

Holy Thursday, Apr. 9, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 PM

Good Friday, Apr. 10, Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM. Passion of the Lord at 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday, Apr. 11, Vigil of Easter at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday, Apr. 12, Masses at 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM



All Faith Formation classes have been **suspended** until further notice. We do not know how long this suspension will last. As of now, **First Reconciliation**, originally scheduled for March 28th, is **postponed**. A new date will be announced when churches are allowed to reopen.

At this time, we are not taking anything else off of the calendar. We are still planning on **Confirmation** on Saturday, May 2 at 5:30pm and **First Holy Communion** on Saturday, May 11 at 4pm. We will update this if it becomes necessary.



"In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses..." (Exodus 17:3)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have a Lent that no one would ever want. The worldwide Coronavirus pandemic forces us to realize that we are all connected. In the Book of Exodus, which we were supposed to read at last weekend's masses, the people grumble against Moses and against God. God, through Moses, has brought them out of enslavement in Egypt and invited them on a journey to salvation. But the way gets hard, the food and water run short, and the stress and strain of events weary the people. We have been forced by world events to get very close to the experience of our faith ancestors. And if you're like me, you're probably grumbling!

We don't know when our parish will be able to resume the public celebration of mass. In the meantime, I ask that you keep all of our parishioners in your daily prayers. Make the hour you would have attended mass into a personal Holy Hour at your home. Tune out all distractions and make that hour one of prayer and meditation. Read the Bible, specifically the readings assigned to the day (Go to www.usccb.org for the readings of the day). And pray especially for all those who are sick with Coronavirus, as well as those in the medical and caring professions who are heroically trying to help those in need.

During this time of closure, we are not sitting idly by! We recently had all the carpets in the church shampooed, and we are going through the classrooms and doing a full spring cleaning. We recently had a technician from Wassman Audio-Visual do an inspection of our sound system, and he is putting together an estimate for necessary repairs. In the coming weeks, we are going to be changing our parish Web Site and starting a Facebook page. Stay tuned for more opportunities to connect digitally!

As you know, not having Masses means that we are not receiving any offertory collections. The weekly offertory is our primary source of funding for the parish. I ask that you continue to support the parish during this difficult time by mailing your envelopes to the office, or contribute through your bank's online bill paying service. We will keep paying our parish employees during this time, so that they do not lose out financially. Unfortunately our utility bills have not been suspended due to Coronavirus.

Please see the web links to some resources that you might find helpful during this time away. As we know from the long history of the Catholic Church, we have been through this before. Times of world war, plague, and other disasters have made us a stronger church. Many heroic saints were ordinary people who lived their faith during these extraordinary times. Will there be a future saint in Hampden? Only time will tell!

May God bless you and keep you safe. Let us all pray for one another!

Fr. Michael Lillpopp, Pastor

Television and Internet Resources

Chalice of Salvation, from St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield. Sunday at 10:00 AM on WWLP-22.

St. Agnes Church, Dalton, www.stagnesc.com. Live streaming masses Saturday at 4:00PM & Sunday at 10:00 PM. Weekday masses at 6:45 AM. Masses can be replayed at any time from the web site.

Catholic Communications, Springfield. Real to Reel weekly newsmagazine, and previously recorded Chalice of Salvation masses: <https://www.youtube.com/user/diocesespringfieldma>

EWTN: LIVE at 8:00am from Our Lady of the Angels Chapel in Irondale, Alabama. Re-aired at Noon and 7:00pm. Available on some cable providers or online via streaming at ewtn.com/tv/watch-live. Also available free for users of Roku and other streaming devices. Listen to the Mass LIVE on the radio, SIRIUS/XM, or listen online at ewtn.com/radio/listen-live. If you missed the live stream, the entirety of the Daily Mass can be found on demand at: <https://video.ewtn.com/daily-mass/>

Catholic TV Network: Daily Mass from Newton, MA online at www.watchthemass.com. All programming available on their Roku channel and some other streaming devices, or online at www.catholic.tv

Vatican: For news from Vatican City and daily mass with Pope Francis. Programming in Italian, some in English. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIsefYl9g9A5SGWA4FvGIA/>

Prayer of Pope Francis to Mary 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 entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us
 from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

For lots of other resources, go to:
<http://www.usccb.org/coronavirus>