

Saint Mary's Parish

WEEKS OF
APRIL 5-18, 2020

HOLY WEEK
AND
EASTER

PARISH STAFF

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EASTER SUNDAY

the
Resurrection
of the
Lord



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

Liturgical Calendar
With Scripture Readings of the Day
 (currently all public masses are suspended)

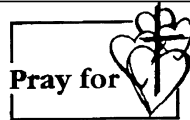
- Sunday, April 5:** Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 (Red) Mt 21:1-11—Is 50:4-7—Phil 2:6-11—Mt 26:14-27:66
- Monday, April 6:** Monday of Holy Week
 (Violet) Is 42:1-7—Jn 12:1-11
- Tuesday, April 7:** Tuesday of Holy Week
 (Violet) Is 49:1-6—Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wednesday, April 8:** Wednesday of Holy Week (Spy Wednesday)
 (Violet) Is 50:4-9a—Mt 26:14-25
- Thursday, April 9:** Holy Thursday (Lord's Supper)
 (White) Ex 12:1-8, 11-14—1 Cor 11:23-26—Jn 13:1-15
- Friday, April 10:** Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord
 (Red) Is 52:13-53:12—Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9—Jn 18:1-19:42
- Saturday, April 11:** Holy Saturday—the Vigil of Easter (after dark)
 (White) Gn 1:1-2:2—Ex 14:15-15:1—Is 55:1-11—Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28—Rom 6:3-11—Mt 28:1-10
- Sunday, April 12:** Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
 (White) Acts 10:34a, 37-43—1 Cor 5:6b-8—Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
- Monday, April 13:** Monday within the Octave of Easter
 (White) Acts 2:14, 22-33—Mt 28:8-15
- Tuesday, April 14:** Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
 (White) Acts 2:36-41—Jn 20:11-18
- Wednesday, April 15:** Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
 (White) Acts 3:1-10—Lk 24:13-35
- Thursday, April 16:** Thursday within the Octave of Easter
 (White) Acts 3:11-26—Lk 24:35-48
- Friday, April 17:** Friday within the Octave of Easter
 (White) Acts 4:1-12—Jn 21:1-14
- Saturday, April 18:** Saturday within the Octave of Easter
 (White) Acts 4:13-21—Mk 16:9-15
- Sunday, April 19:** Second Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday
 (Father Michael's Birthday)
 (White) Acts 2:42-47—1 Pt 1:3-9—Jn 20:19-31

Follow along with your Bible and read each day's readings. The liturgical color for each day is listed. Get into the spirit of the season by wearing something of that color assigned to the day!

Announced mass intentions can be rescheduled to a later date or celebrated privately by Fr. Michael. If you have an announced mass intention coming up, please call us at 566-8843, ext. 3, and let us know what you want to do.

Sadly, the **Church** and the **Shrine of Our Lady** remain closed until further notice due to Covid-19 restrictions and the state "Stay at Home" advisory. The outdoor **Meditation Garden** at the back of the property remains accessible. Many have been using it for "drive up" prayer. If you do get out of your car, please maintain a 6 foot distance between others, and no more than 10 people gathering outside of their cars at a time. I know this sounds ridiculous, but such are the restrictions that are keeping us alive.

The **Catholic Life Conference** has been rescheduled to **Saturday, October 21** at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield. More information when churches reopen.



- 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

Because we don't have our normal offertory counting teams coming in, we are unable to prepare a financial report. Thank you to those who are mailing in their offerings. This allows us to continue paying our employees and our bills.

The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul's** collection of **new pajamas** (women's and children's) for the YWCA Women's Shelter **is postponed** until churches reopen. We will let you know when we can resume collecting them

We have distributed 46 Big Y gift cards to area families in need for Easter. Your donations in the St. Vincent de Paul collection box in the church help support this important ministry to our neighbors. While the church is closed, you may mail your donation to the parish office. Make checks payable to "St. Mary's Parish," but put "St. Vincent de Paul" in the memo line.

2020 Annual Catholic Appeal *Our Faith, Our Future* is the theme of the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal. The work of our Appeal agencies goes on and is even more vital to the poor and vulnerable during this time of public health emergency. Please consider a prayerful gift using the envelope you received in the mail. Or go online to: www.diospringfield.org and click the Appeal link to pay electronically.

The Annual Catholic Appeal **In-Pew Commitment Weekend** has been cancelled.



Faith Formation Update: Because the church closure has been extended, **First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion** have all been **postponed** to the fall. A new date will be announced when churches are allowed to reopen. Catechetical materials have been sent home, and parents are encouraged to continue the faith formation of their children at home.

The Parish Office has been closed until further notice due to the state "Stay at Home" advisory. Peggy and Rudie remain paid employees of the parish, but have been temporarily relieved of their work duties so that they can remain safely at home. While the office door is no longer being answered, the office phone voicemail and parish e-mail continued to be monitored on an hourly basis by Father Michael. We want to thank the Hampden Police Department for regularly monitoring our parish property, and all of our first responders and hospital and nursing home personnel who are working tirelessly for our wellbeing and safety!



"They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they put him."

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The words above were spoken by Mary of Magdala, who upon reaching the Lord's tomb, is startled to discover the heavy stone that once blocked the opening has been rolled away, and the tomb is in fact empty. The Gospel goes on to say that Mary and the other disciples were confused, and didn't at first think in terms of Resurrection. They didn't know what to think. They were just shocked and afraid for their beloved friend.

My preaching teacher in the seminary was a Dominican nun named Sister Honora, who was fond of saying, "If you're preaching on the Resurrection, will you kindly inform your face!" She knew the tendency of preachers, aware of the weighty role we have on Easter Sunday, to forget that we are talking about the happiest thing ever to happen to humanity. Death is not the end of human life! Jesus has conquered death, so don't be afraid! Kindly inform your face, and be joyful!

Yet, as we watch the grim news and see the infection rate and death count climb due to Coronavirus, many of us find it difficult to be joyful. This is the time to look deeper into our faith to find a reason to rejoice. That might come in moments of prayer when we find our Lord close to us. Or it may come in a glimpse of the face of Jesus in the kindness of our neighbors who offer a word of concern for our wellbeing, or a helping hand. A joyful moment may come when we are suddenly prompted to pray for those on the front lines of this virus war, especially nurses, doctors, nursing home staff, supermarket employees, and all those who provide us with the daily essentials for living.

PBS aired a curious British "reality" program a few years ago called "1940 House." They chose a modern 21st century family to go back in time and live in a house reverse-renovated to the 1940s. They had to dress in the clothes of that time, eat the foods available then, and face the challenges of living in war-time. This included suffering through food shortages, blackouts, and air raids.

At the end, the family members were interviewed about their experience of wartime hardship. While they wouldn't describe their time as fun, they did have many joyful experiences. Some of these came when neighbors helped them out and restored their faith in humanity. They grew to appreciate their family members more and helped one another discover hidden talents and gifts. They became more resourceful because of hardships caused by lack of modern conveniences. They learned new skills, such as cooking and growing vegetables, because they couldn't just pick up prepared meals from the supermarket.

Maybe the social distancing and other hardships that Coronavirus has brought will help us rediscover the goodness of others, and make us finally understand what Jesus was trying to tell us about loving our neighbor. Even though this difficult time is not "fun," maybe our Lord will nevertheless teach us a new way to be joyful. If so, kindly inform your face! Happy Easter!

Fr. Michael Lillpopp, Pastor

Television and Internet Resources

Our new parish website www.stmaryshampden.org is up and running! If you previously accessed the old site (the one with the church building at the top of the homepage) you will need to clear your browser's "cookies" so that it points you to the new site. We are updating it regularly, and there are some great video links under the tabs "Faith" and "Links & Resources."

Chalice of Salvation, will be broadcasting special Triduum services at 11:00 AM on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and at 10:00 AM on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, all on WWLP Channel 22. These can also be streamed from our parish website.

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

EWTN: <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.catholictv.org

Pray the Angelus

The Angelus is a Catholic devotion dating back 700 years commemorating the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Our church sounds the Angelus Bell, the call to prayer, three times a day at 8:00 AM, 12:00 noon, and 6:00 PM. The devotion is practiced by reciting as versicle and response three Biblical passages narrating the mystery of the Incarnation, alternating with the "Hail Mary" prayer. You will hear a triple toll of the "Ave bell" three times, followed by nine peals (for a total of 18 rings). Whether you are on the parish grounds when the Angelus Bell sounds, or at home, join in the following prayer (V=Versicle, R=Response):

V:/ The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R:/ And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary...

V:/ Behold the Handmaid of the Lord.
R:/ Be it done unto me according to Thy Word
Hail Mary...

V:/ And the Word was made flesh
R:/ And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary...

V:/ Pray for us O Holy Mother of God
R:/ That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us Pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee O Lord,
Thy grace into our hearts;
That we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son
Was made known by the message of an angel,
May by His Passion and Cross
Be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.