

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 29, 2020

From the priests' desks:

Dear brothers and sisters of Sacred Heart,

It certainly looks as if nature is resurrecting itself as it always does at this time of year. As spring became official this past week, I saw my first robin of the season, hopping around the grounds at Tagaste, looking, no doubt, for some tasty worms; as well as the early spring flowers: forsythias, tulips, and crocuses, all beginning their annual bloom. Although the cycle of nature is quite predictable, the cycle of human nature is not quite so certain. Listening to today's wonderful Gospel story of the Resurrection of Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-45) we may feel that we also are in need of resurrection ... And we most certainly are! At a time when all we hear about is sickness and even death—all around the world—where is the good news that we have been anticipating? We may not even be able to celebrate Easter together and welcome our catechumens into the Church at a time when "social distancing" has become the new gospel!

The shadow of the Cross is not simply a liturgical ritual acknowledged by our Lenten fasting, Stations of the Cross, and Good Friday commemoration. This year the Passion of Christ is only too real in the faces of those around us and in our own fears about a strange and deadly virus. Our prayers may well echo the reaction of Martha to Jesus in today's Gospel: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died," she stated, almost accusingly. Lord, if you are really here, have mercy; help us; heal us! This must be our prayer; this has to be our prayer when so many people are suffering physically, financially, and socially. As a faith community we must hold on to our belief that Good Friday will give way to Easter Sunday ... and we will celebrate Easter, even if it be delayed! At news of the death of Lazarus we are told that Jesus wept; he cried as we have cried all too many times at the loss of something or someone dear to us. The great sign that Jesus worked that turned the tears of Martha and Mary into joy, foreshadowed in the raising of Lazarus and confirmed by his own Resurrection, is one that we also await; and it will come!

And we must remind ourselves that we are not helpless in the face of this plague. We know what we must do to defeat this common enemy—as individuals, as a society, and as a parish community; the steps we must take to protect ourselves and those whom we love. We must find the will to do it, as we find the will to be people who believe in Jesus as our Savior. St. Augustine says that we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song. Let us take

courage—we should be cautious, and we should be concerned, but we should not be afraid. May the Lord strengthen and support us in this time of darkness that we may come out into the light once again, more firmly united with God and with one another, cherishing more than ever the gifts of life, of family, and of faith.

Fr. John Gruben, OAR

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

***My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You. Amen.***

SR. MAUREEN FRANCIS O'SHEA

Of the Congregation of the Sisters of Reparation of St. Zita and director for many years of St. Zita's Villa, an assisted living facility in Monsey, NY, died on March 17 after a short illness. Sister Maureen had been a long-time friend of Sacred Heart Parish and Tagaste Monastery and was well known for her dedication to the ladies in residence at the Villa. A Memorial Mass will be offered for her, to be announced in the near future.

March 2020

Dear Sacred Heart Parishioner,

We are reaching out to all of you our parish family to send our prayers for your health and spiritual well-being. These are truly trying times. Not being able to get together for Mass each day and especially each Sunday is so very upsetting and difficult for us all. We are currently working on establishing a Mass live streamed by Sunday March 29th. It will be able to be seen on our website: WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG .

This situation is very fluid, and changes are happening daily as you are aware. To date we know that our school and religious education department is closed till April 20th, but of course that could change. Currently our Rectory office is open by appointment only from 9am to 5pm. (This includes Confessions also). Please call and leave a message and we will get back to you. We are fervently praying that it goes on no longer than April 20th, but only God knows.

Saying all this I do need to implore all our parish to please continuing your weekly contributions. We ask that if possible you visit our website again,

www.sacredheartparish.org and on the homepage top right side you will see our online format for donating, **WeShare**. If you do not use the online services please send your contributions to Sacred Heart Parish at 129 Lafayette Ave. Suffern, NY 10901. Our parish is only as strong as it's parishioners and without your generosity the parish suffers.

Sacred Heart also has a facebook page Sacred Heart Church 150th Anniversary, where we are trying to establish having the Rosary said and following up with evening prayer at 7pm each evening. Please keep checking the page until we have it established. We are all figuring out how to handle this new norm.

On Wednesday afternoon, March 18th, Father Gruben and I joined an audio conference with His Eminence Cardinal Dolan, concerning the ongoing threat of CoVid- 19. Naturally he encouraged us to keep the faith and reminded us to wash our hands and sanitize continually and to adhere to the six-foot rule when near others. He also informed us that **Reconciliation Monday, April 6th** is Cancelled. He spoke to us concerning not being able to be together for Holy Masses nor any other Sacraments and services such as Stations of the Cross. He did encourage all to pray privately the Holy Rosary, Stations, Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc. He closed with these words: Be assured, brothers and sisters that with every private Mass a priest celebrates the Eucharist is very much alive and present among us. God Bless us All.

Until we are set up with our new way having things handled here at Sacred Heart please visit our website and I am listing below the different places you can currently experience the Mass and other prayerful ways to stay in touch and experience opportunities of prayer and attend Mass.

<https://www.catholicfaithnetwork.org/>

<https://www.catholicfaithnetwork.org/cfn-livestream-player>

<https://www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>

I would like to end with what His Eminence also shared for all to contemplate:

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace Him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive Sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

May God Bless us all. You are all in our thoughts, prayers and private Masses daily. Please stay safe and healthy.

John Michael Rafferty, OAR

OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL

Issued: March 224, 2020

Dear Family of the Archdiocese of New York:

The coronavirus has attacked not only our city, state, nation, and world, but also our daily lives as we experience social isolation and quarantine. We pray with and for one another. Like all families and households, the Archdiocese of New York has been adapting to these new protocols to ensure we can continue to practice the faith with our archdiocesan family. While public Masses at our churches have been cancelled during this crisis, our priests continue to celebrate Mass every day. Even though they are celebrated without any congregation present, many pastors have begun to livestream their Masses on Facebook and YouTube, and I understand more are planning to do so in the days ahead, and our churches are open for individuals to pray. You can also participate in the celebration of the Eucharist at Saint Patrick's Cathedral which is available on many cable systems via the Catholic Faith Network and its website at www.catholicfaithnetwork.org, livestreamed on the St. Patrick's Cathedral website at www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/live, and broadcast on radio on The Catholic Channel of Sirius XM (Channel 129). I was not surprised to learn during a recent video conference call with all the priests, that they are making every effort to provide pastoral care to their people, although under very controlled conditions. Our daily lives have been altered in so many ways by the impact of this virus. Illness, job loss, school closings, movies, Broadway, restaurants, sports all shuttered – the list goes on! For us Catholics, not being able to attend Mass at our parish church is a real loss, particularly during this holy season of Lent. All of this leads to a sense of fear and uncertainty. Although some of the visible work of the Church – like public worship and the sacraments – seems to have been “put on hold” during this crisis, the work of the Church in prayer, charity, and health care remains active and vibrant! Even more, the invisible work at the heart of the Church's mission continues. God's mercy and grace are just as abundant as ever, and our prayers and supplications are always heard! As Jesus told us, “Fear is useless. What is needed is trust.” Trust in the God who created us, who loves us completely, and invites us to trust in Him! Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our people, soul, mind, and body. Please know that the archdiocese's healthcare agency, ArchCare has established a 24-hour hotline to assist with any aspect of the coronavirus. If you have questions or other health-related concerns, call their hotline at 877-239-1998. If you are experiencing other challenges, our Catholic Charities stands ready to lend assistance wherever possible. Do not hesitate to call them at 888-744-7900. From an early stage, the archdiocese established a working group to monitor the outbreak of the virus and review the preparedness procedures for our parishes, schools, cemeteries, offices, and many other apostolates and institutions. This team has performed excellently through these unprecedented times. We have adhered to all directives implemented by civil authorities and

**BOOSTER CLUB
WEEK 6-Wayne Gannon**

reputable health organizations. The safety of our people is of the utmost importance to us and we will continue to take necessary measures to protect our community. Just like you and your family, the parishes of the archdiocese are suffering from this crisis as well. Now, perhaps more than at any time in recent history, your parish and the archdiocese need your help. It can't survive without you. Now that our public Masses have been cancelled for an undetermined period of time, **I am appealing to you to support your parish by continuing to share your gift of Sunday offertory.** These funds are critical for the continued operation of your parish at this unprecedented moment in time. Your parish does so much more than offer Sunday Mass. It is there in the happiest moments in your life – wedding, baptisms, first communions – and is a source of comfort during some of the most challenging, during times of sorrow like the death of a loved one. There are prayer groups, food pantries, social activities, schools, and on-going religious education. All of this depends on you! Please continue, at a minimum, with your current level of support. One easy way to do so is through your parish's online giving provider; a majority of our parishes use WeShare. Your parish's online giving account can be accessed through the parish's website. I know your pastors will be most appreciative and relieved to know that they can depend on receiving your continued offertory support each Sunday. I am not being alarmist when I say that without your support, your parish may be seriously undermined. At the same time, I call upon our heroic scholarship donors who always come to the rescue of our wonderful schools. Our education and development teams will be reaching out to you to seek your assistance in funding needy families at this time. Our finance people have been very honest with me, expressing their grave concerns about our ability to cover our overhead during this crisis at this time. While I certainly do not want to even consider layoffs, it may be necessary to implement an archdiocesan wide salary furlough of up to 25% for all employees, with the prayer and hope for an early return to normality. We need your loyalty to the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal and Renew and Rebuild more than ever! Thank you for reading this somber letter and know that I regret having to bring more uncertainty and worry during this already unsettled time. But you have told me that you appreciate honesty and transparency. Yet, our most appropriate response is faith and confidence, along with charity to others. With renewed gratitude for all that you do for our Catholic family, and prayerful best wishes for a blessed Lent, I am, Faithfully in Christ, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan Archbishop of New York



Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Jack Allard, Keith Alanis, Jenna

Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Michael Brady, Pat Brady, Annette Burbridge, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Gail Curtin, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Roy Harris, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Susan Jarkiewicz, Anna Kasperska, Eileen Kennedy, Fred

Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Rosemarie Manthey, Matthew Luludis, Marie Marasuilo, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Rich McDowell, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Jacob Mendelsohn, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Joseph Mikulka, Barbara Neilson, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Shace Paljusevic, Peter Princi, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.

**ALTAR MEMORIALS
MARCH 29, 2020
Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of
JOHN BUKOWSKI, II**



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones:

**Especially: Sr. Maureen O'Shea, Matthew McCourt
Frank Salveggi, Rosario Mirarchi**

**ALL MASSES WILL BE SAID
PRIVATELY BY OUR PARISH
PRIESTS DUE TO COVID-19**

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Frank A. Battaglia

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

7:00am – All Parishioners
8:30am – In Thanksgiving St. Joseph
10:00am – William Mulcahy
11:30am – Silvio Zucatti
1:00pm – Christine Laurencio
5:30pm – Parish Memorial Society

MONDAY, MARCH 30

7:00am – Marge Gladkowski
9:00am – Vincent Crotty
7:15pm – **Novena**

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

7:00am –
9:00am – Frank Circelli

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

7:00am – Joseph Lopardo
9:00am – Marie A. Lane

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

7:00am – Douglas Muir
9:00am – David Chisholm

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

7:00am – Special Intention Margaret Petukh
9:00am – Neil Schouten
7:00pm – Lenten Mass- Cancelled
7:30pm – Stations of the Cross- Cancelled

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

9:00am – Frances Marconi

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Albert & Carmela LaBruna

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

7:00am – All Parishioners
8:30am – Rose Lopardo
10:00am – Dulia Celestin
11:30am – Margaret Fletcher
1:00pm – Johnny McGrath
5:30pm – Parish Memorial Society