

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

In our Lenten journey we have reached the Fifth Sunday, characterized by the Gospel of the resurrection of Lazarus. It concerns the last “sign” fulfilled by Jesus, after which the chief priests convened the Sanhedrin and deliberated killing Him, and decided to kill the same Lazarus who was living proof of the divinity of Christ, the Lord of life and death. Actually, this Gospel passage shows Jesus as true Man and true God. First of all, the Evangelist insists on His friendship with Lazarus and His sisters, Martha and Mary. He emphasizes that “Jesus loved” them, and this is why He wanted to accomplish the great wonder. “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him out of sleep”, He tells His disciples, expressing God’s viewpoint on physical death with the metaphor of sleep. God sees it exactly as sleep, from which He can awaken us. Jesus has shown an absolute power regarding this death, seen when he gives life back to the widow of Nain’s young son and to the 12 year-old girl. Precisely concerning her He said: “The child is not dead but sleeping”, attracting the derision of those present. But in truth it is exactly like this: bodily death is a sleep from which God can awaken us at any moment.

This lordship over death does not impede Jesus from feeling sincere “com-*passion*” for the sorrow of detachment. Seeing Martha and Mary and those who had come to console them weeping, Jesus “was deeply moved in spirit and troubled”, and lastly, “wept”. Christ’s heart is divine-human: in Him God and man meet perfectly, without separation and without confusion. He is the image, or rather, the incarnation of God who is love, mercy, paternal and maternal tenderness, of God who is Life. Therefore, He solemnly declared to Martha: “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die”. And He adds, “Do you believe this?”. It is a question that Jesus addresses to each one of us: a question that certainly rises above us, rises above our capacity to understand, and it asks us to entrust ourselves to Him as He entrusted Himself to the Father. Martha’s response is exemplary: “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, He who is coming into the world”. Yes, O Lord! We also believe, notwithstanding our doubts and darkness; we believe in you because you have the words of eternal life. We want to believe in you, who give us a trustworthy hope of life beyond life, of authentic and full life in your Kingdom of light and peace.

We entrust this prayer to Mary Most Holy. May her intercession strengthen our faith and hope in Jesus, especially in moments of greater trial and difficulty.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

***Please note that we will not be having  
Tenebrae services this year.***

***The Church will be open for those who  
would like to pray the Stations of the Cross  
privately on Fridays starting at 3pm to 8pm.***

***All Religious Education classes  
WILL NOT  
be in session at least  
through April 20th.***

Holy Thursday is April 9th. Mass is scheduled for 7pm. If the Archdiocese cancels all Masses Fr. Newcomb will still say a private Mass. The Church will be open on all Sundays as well from 7:30am– 3pm

***Liturgical Ministers for April 4th/5th, 2020 (Palm Sunday)***

Mass	Lector	Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
4:00pm			
8:30am		*** Special Schedule***	
11:30am			

*The All You Can Eat Breakfast for this weekend has been cancelled.*

We have begun the next Formed Lectio Bible Studies Series. We will meet in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room. Class runs from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

The Topic is: Lectio: Salvation with Dr. Michael Barber

**30 March:** Session 5: Not Just a Legal Transaction

**20 April:** Session 6: Not a Spectator Sport

**27 April:** Session 7: Not Simply a Moment

**4 May:** Session 8: Not Inevitable

**1 June:** Session 9: Not Just for Other People

**8 June:** Session 10: Not Only About the Future

**Clean up at St. Mary's Cemetery has begun. Kindly clean up and pick up any personal belongings that have been left at your loved one's gravesite.**

**S.M.A.R.T.** will also be selling Palm Crosses for \$10 in the Narthex the weekend of March 28th/29th and if any are left the weekend of April 4th/5th (Palm Sunday)

Boyscout's Annual Car Wash & Clothing Drive will be on May 2nd, 9am-2pm, Car Wash is \$5 and collect: **CLOTHING** –

(ALL TYPES, SEASONS & SIZES)  **SNEAKERS &**

**SHOES (ALL KINDS),**  **HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES,**

**HANDBAGS, BACKPACKS, BELTS,**  **TOYS & GAMES (ALL TYPES, SMALLER THEN 2 FEET BY 2**

**FEET),**  **ALL BEDDING & TOWEL ITEMS,**  **DRA-**

**PERIES & CURTAINS,**  **STUFFED ANIMALS & DOLLS.**

We are in need of 3 people to step up to be on the Parish Advisory Council for a 3 year term. We thank previous members Steve Riordan, Cheryl Lovelace, and Janet Smith for their 3 years of service. Please call the parish office to submit your name by Friday, May 22nd. Names will be picked on Sunday, May 31st-Pentecost Sunday.

Reconciliation Monday will be on April 6th. All churches within the Archdiocese of NY will be hearing confessions from 3pm until 9pm.

Due to unfortunate incidents hindering safety within the Church, we will begin locking the Church doors 15 minutes after Mass begins. You will still be able to exit but will not be able to reenter. This will take effect the weekend of April 18th/19th.

The collection for March 21/22 was \$4,383.  
Thank you for your continued generosity.

## Announced Masses

**Monday,**  
9:00am

**March 30**

Michael McCarthy, by Janey and Casimir Tyborowski

**Tuesday,**  
9:00am

**March 31**

Grace Fulford, by the Brechbiel family

**Wednesday, April 1**

9:00am

William Quinn, by Amelia Quinn

**Thursday,**

**April 2 (Francis of Paola, hermit)**

9:00am

Intentions of Matilde Torres and Moises Serrano, by Ruby Feliciano

**Friday,**

**April 3**

11:30am

Michael McCarthy, by the Heckman family

7:00pm

*Stations of the Cross*

**Saturday,**

**April 4**

4:00pm

Parishioners of St. Mary's

**Sunday,**

**April 5 (Palm Sunday)**

8:30am

Peter Lawrow, by Mary Rimlinger

11:30am

Frances Lovelace, by the family

1:00pm

Mary and Louis Napolitano, by Amelia Quinn

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Habertzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam., Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ana Anaya, Glenn Lagatol, Ellen Pentland, Shirley Simeone, and Belinda Vazquez.

**The Cardinal's Appeal** has begun. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$7,690 from 35 donors. You can visit [Cardinalsappeal.org](http://Cardinalsappeal.org). Our Parish number is **518**.

**Court Madonna No. 114** will be hosting their annual ladies' tea on Sat., June 20th. Ladies \$15/pp-Young ladies under 12 are \$7/pp. The theme is *Tea at Tiffany's with Court Madonna & Co.*. So put on your favorite little black dress or something divine, your most dazzling pearls or costume jewels, and join us for a fabulous afternoon. Tiaras are the way to go, fancy or not these will be hot! Advance registration needed. No walk-ins. Kindly RSVP to member, Laura Nicolette at (973) 293-3523 by March 28th. Please make checks payable to Court Madonna and mail to: Laura Nicolette, 21 Chubby Lane, Montague, NJ 07827.