

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON **Office of the Bishop**

200 North Glebe Road, Suite, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • (703)841-2511 • Fax (703)524-5028

April 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Although the celebration of Easter this year will be like no other due to the pandemic, the truths of this sacred day remain constant and unchanged. By His Cross and Resurrection, Jesus conquered the power of sin, darkness, suffering and death. We celebrate His victory on Easter as we proclaim together that Jesus has been raised from the dead and He is alive and with us!

In the midst of these unsettling times for all of us, I encourage you to share the Good News of Easter with others, as well as your love for God and your trust in Him. Show them that you find true happiness in following His ways and commands. Continue to share your time and resources with others, especially the weak, the vulnerable and those in most need. In all these ways, you help to reflect the presence of Christ to them.

With faith and in joyful hope, entrust your families, our nation and our world to Our Lord Jesus and His saving power. May He bless you and your families and fill you with His peace at Easter and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael F. Burbidge

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Dear Parishioners,

He is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Today the glory of our Risen Lord overcomes all the pain and suffering we see around us in the world. Although we are confined to our homes, nothing should confine the joy that is ours in light of the resurrection of the Lord. Because he has overcome sin and death – we too rise with him by virtue of our Baptism. May the Lord bless each and every one of you with his graces during this Easter season!

Please pray for those who have been preparing to be received into the Church this Easter. Like most things, we have had to postpone their entry into the Church until such time as we are able to publicly celebrate the Mass again. As disappointing as it is, please God, before too long we will be able to welcome them as our brothers and sisters.

My heartfelt gratitude to Matt Ho and Tess Venkat for helping me reach so many of you through our live-streaming of Mass and Stations of the Cross. Extra thanks to Matt Ho and Kathy Farmer for enhancing our Triduum liturgies with music. I have heard a number of you have posted thoughtful comments on Facebook. While I am not technologically savvy enough to read them, I am grateful for your kind words. I truly look forward to the day when we can see one another face-to-face again.

Most sincerely in Christ,

Parish Mass Schedule

Saturday Easter Vigil:
Live Stream—8:30pm

Easter Sunday:
Live Stream—8:45am

NOTE: The church will be closed during live streaming times.

(The church and the chapel remain open for prayer, limited to 10 persons at a time)

Clergy

Reverend Richard M. Guest, Pastor
Reverend Paul Dudzinski, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Nicholas R. Barnes, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Paul C. Konold
Deacon Anthony J. Renzette

St. Theresa Catholic Church
DIVINE MERCY OUTREACH

Learn more, visit
www.saintttheresaparish.com

Ways to Help

Some have asked what they can do or how to help so I want to let folks know of ways they can help during this difficult time we are all experiencing. Here are a few ways to help.

Assisting Catholic Charities:

•Another alternative. Shop Amazon https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/O36HJ5Y74CBH/ref=bnav_topnav_lists_2

•Checks and gift cards should be sent to Catholic Charities, 316 E. Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176

•Consider volunteering (anyone 18 years of age or older) at the Catholic Charities pantry to package up bags of food to be donated to families. They have established a "no-contact distribution system so that clients and volunteers do not interface except over a table. The clients drive up, present their ID, and they give them prepackaged bags of food based on the family size. They need help in packaging these bags -- if you or any family member can give a few hours, it would be greatly appreciated. **Please send contact information to Christina Harrington at Christina.harrington@ccda.net**. She will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time and day(s). Most of their current volunteers are in the highest risk groups and are taking a hiatus from the pantry.

Assisting at the parish level:

•Consider **online donations** to assist families who have already been impacted and need help with rent and utilities. It is come to my attention that although utilities aren't being cut off the late fees are still being applied. www.saintttheresaparish.com under DONATE. Your donation makes a big difference in another's life!

•**Donations of non-perishable food items and paper products** can be dropped off inside the first door to the admin/school building. Indicate DMO on the bag. Cooking oil, white rice, spaghetti sauce, pancake mix/ Bisquick and syrup, canned fruits and vegetables, toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, diapers size 1.

Friends in Need- Another way to help this Lent:
Provides meals on a short term basis for those families or individuals in the parish who are unable to cook for themselves due to illness or a medical situation in the immediate family, arrival of a new baby…Contact Emily Wilsey at emwilsey@aol.com or 703.585.5435 to volunteer to make meals or if you or a loved one are in need of help with meals.

Please support this fundraiser as we need proceeds from this more now than ever!

Car Raffle
All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited our parishioners to participate again in their 5-car raffle. Prizes include five 2020 vehicles from Koons of Manassas (Honda Civic, Buick Encore, GMC Canyon Truck, Honda CRV Sport Utility and Honda Odyssey Van). One $5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five vehicles plus $20,000 in cash prizes. Divine Mercy Outreach receives proceeds from what is sold through our church. Last year $38,000. was raised to help the less fortunate in Loudoun County. Drawing is on April 25th. All ticket stubs must be returned to All Saints and be post marked April 21st for guaranteed entry. Questions? Contact Loan Jella at dmoassistant@saintttheresaparish.com

Youth Education and News

Youth Ministry

ymoffice@saintttheresaparish.com

URS—The High School Youth Group (9th graders - 12th grade)

Rock Squad-Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th graders)
Saturday, 6:30-8:30pm

Religious Education

Office Hours:
Mon–Thurs. 9am-4pm;
Fri. 9am-noon

—**RE classes** are canceled in person for the rest of the year. See emails from Mr. Bayne and your teachers.
—**No decision yet** being made about rescheduling **First Holy Communions**. If that changes, all First Communion families will be notified via email.
—**This Sunday's Mass** will be streamed live from St. Theresa's at 8:45am. To view the Mass at that time, please go to the following link - http://rmd.me/9966kBwUQFL
Please note that the Church itself will be closed at that time.
—**The website, Formed.org**, is a wonderful resource for families who can't attend Mass, and especially for parents to help them educate their children while they cannot attend Religious Education classes during these challenging times.

Go to Formed.org
Click "Sign-Up"
Select "I Belong to For a Parish or Organization"
Find St. Theresa Catholic Church by Zip Code "20147"
Enter your email - and you're in!!!

St. Theresa Parish VBS 2020

Has been canceled for this year. Refunds will be coming soon.

Adults Plan Ahead to Volunteer
Want to volunteer at the many St. Theresa's children based programs/ events (i.e. fall picnic, school functions)? St. Theresa's encourages and welcomes your involvement however it requires that all volunteers be compliant. A Volunteer Welcome letter will be sent to your email address along with a link to fill out the electronic forms online. For further details please contact Connie Gilligan, Parish Child Safety Coordinator, at connie@saintttheresaparish.com or call 703.729.3714.

Volunteers will also have to register and sign up for the original VIRTUS course. Please go to www.virtus.org.

The Saint Theresa Catholic School (STCS) community is thriving, and applications for the 2020-21 school year are now being accepted. *Won't you join us?*
While we cannot be together in the building at this time, the STCS community is together in spirit! Our students and teachers transitioned to distance learning on March 16, and our school continues to fully operate via the internet. STCS offers exceptional academics and faith formation, and has been *Educating Tomorrow's Catholic Leaders* for over 25 years! To learn more or to schedule a virtual meeting, email Admissions Director Donna McDonald, mcdonaldd@stsashburn.com, or leave a voicemail at 703.729.3577.



Saint Theresa Catholic School

STCS is closed through the end of the school year. Students have transitioned to distance and eLearning. Parents, please continue to watch your email for updates and frequently check the school website. *Stay safe and healthy!*

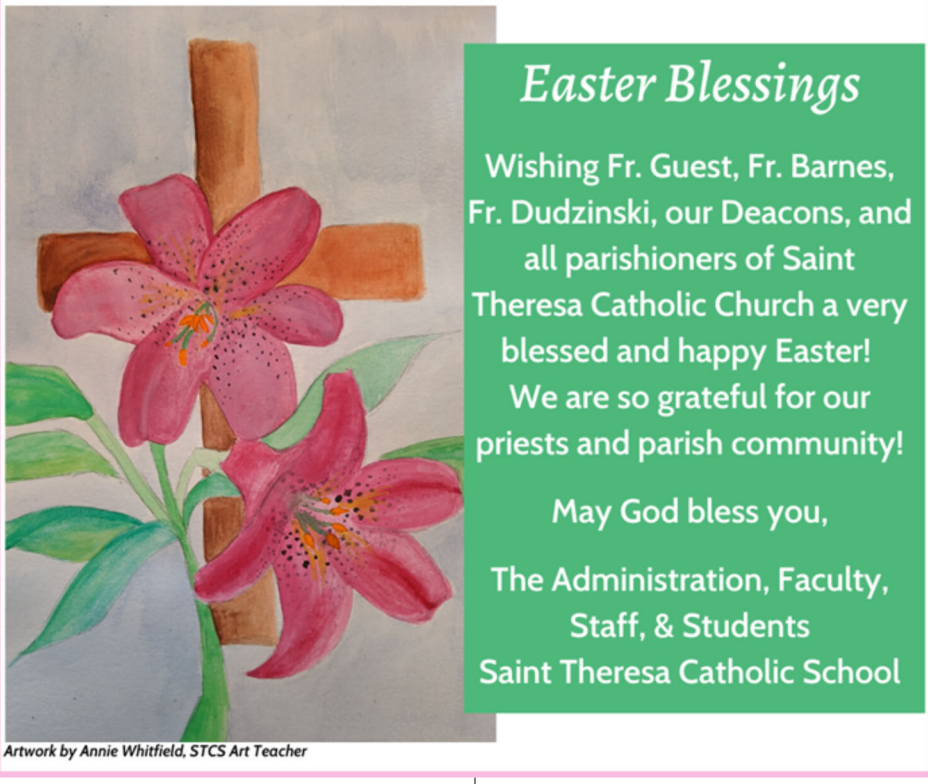
Unfortunately, due to the school closure, ***Salute to Andrew Lloyd Webber* has been cancelled**. We are attempting to contact all who purchased tickets for the event. Please email your name and address to quijanoa@stsashburn.com and let us know if you would like us to process a reimbursement check, or if you prefer to simply donate your refund amount to support the arts at STCS and we will send you a letter of acknowledgement for your donation. If you are not on email, please leave a message on the school phone 703.729.3577, and we will return your call. Thank you for your support!



STCS Spotlight: Virtual Spirit Week 2020
Even though our building is closed, our school community continues to stay connected and thrive. We celebrated our school spirit with an awesome "Virtual Spirit Week"! We miss our students and families and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Want to see what's new at STCS?
Check out the STCS Facebook page (@SaintTheresaSchoolAshburn), Alumni and Friends Facebook page (@STSAshburnAlumni) and Twitter (@STSAshburnVA). Don't forget to "like" and "follow" us!

News from our Parish



Artwork by Annie Whitfield, STCS Art Teacher

Job Opening
St. Theresa School has an opening for a Middle School Social Studies teacher for the 2020-21 school year, and is accepting resumes for a Middle School Math position. Please email your resume, cover letter, and sample lesson plan to Scott Pochick, pochicks@saintttheresaparish.com.

Spiritual Recommendations for St. Theresa Parish

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.
~Prayer of St. Theresa of Avila

General Advice
•Given the current circumstances, there are still good spiritual practices and disciplines that we can undertake to grow in holiness
—This is an important time to put our trust in the Lord
•Each of us still represents the Church as a Catholic. We should be good examples to others and encourage fellow Catholics to continue practicing our faith
•Offer all sacrifices and suffering during this time to the Lord for the salvation of souls
•Check in frequently with family members and friends
—Offer help to family, friends and neighbors if there is something that can be done
•Maintaining body health is consistent with our faith.
—Please exercise all due precautions and take appropriate measures to protect personal health and the health of other people.
•There are many other resources, besides what is listed here, which can also be helpful.

Schedule
•As a suggestion, set aside a specific time or times each day to say prayers or perform spiritual activities
•As best as possible, try to keep Sunday holy by doing at least some prayers and spiritual practices
•Pray each morning and evening, even short prayers
•Prayers before and after meals
•The Angelus
—A traditional prayer offered at 6am, 12Noon, and 6pm
—Could be prayed at least once per day or at any time
—https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/angelus-383
•Practice good discipline
—Set daily goals or expectations
•Avoid squandering or merely wasting a lot of time when in its place we could do something worthwhile

Teaching on Mass attendance
•It is not a sin on anyone's part that public Masses are not being offered. When Masses are once again held publicly, no one will need to confess missing Mass as a sin during this period of time.
•While extraordinary, perhaps a good way to think about not being able to attend Mass would be akin to someone being deployed in the military. Sometimes military service personnel do not have access to a Catholic Chaplain through no fault of their own and therefore cannot attend Mass.
•All parishioners are still being prayed for by parish priests at private Masses. Even though no one is allowed to presently attend, the Masses are still being offered and provide tremendous grace to everyone.

Continue to follow the Mass
•App on phone called *ibreviary* that has daily Mass readings, Mass prayers, and the Liturgy of the Hours
—Liturgy of the Hours is the universal prayer of the Church offered throughout the world. These are prayers all priests and religious continue to offer each day.
—Anyone can say some or all of these prayers. There are five "hours" in the day. Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer (has three possible times, midmorning, midday, and midafternoon), Evening Prayer, and Night Prayer
•Magnificat. This is a print publication but can also be obtained in a digital format. It has many of the above prayers and includes reflections.
•USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). They have access to the daily Mass readings
•Bishop Burbidge will be showing video of Sunday Mass. See the Arlington Diocese website
•EWTN. This is a Catholic cable station that shows Mass each day and has other religious programs

(Continued on next page)

News from our Parish Continued

Spiritual Communion
•For a variety of reasons, it is not always possible to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion through no fault of a person. It does not replace going to Mass but covers circumstances like our current time.
•Many saints have undertaken this practice, and it is encouraged as a general practice in any situation. This can be prayed at any time of the day and in any place. As a devotion, it can be done every day, not just on Sundays.
•"*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.*"

Renewed Gratitude for Mass
•This period of time offers a chance to be thankful for the great gift of Mass. Under normal circumstances, Masses in our area are made abundantly available. We can grow, during this time, in gratitude for the gift of gathering around the Lord's altar.
•While attending Mass on Sundays is an obligation (under normal conditions), it is even more so a gift that we can appreciate more deeply, especially when Masses one day resume normally.

Reading Scripture
•In addition to the daily Mass readings, read passages from the Gospel about Jesus healing the sick. It was an extremely important part of His public ministry.
•The Gospel of Matthew is full of accounts where Jesus healed countless individuals.
•James 5:14-15

Stations of the Cross
•This practice is traditionally done on Fridays during Lent but can be done anytime. It can be prayed as a family or as an individual at home.
•This is the version that we pray as a parish https://www.ecatholic2000.com/liguori/stations/cross.shtml
•The version for children that we pray with the school and RE children https://www.amazon.com/Cross-Children-Joseph-Picture-Books/dp/089942497X
•Another version that can be ordered —*Stations of the Cross--in my pocket.* By the daughters of St. Paul
•Formed (see below under digital formats) and other websites have possible versions of the Stations of the Cross to pray

Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
•The rosary is a powerful prayer that can be prayed as individuals or in small groups.
—There is a strong tradition of praying to Mary for protection and help in grave times of need
•Chaplet of Divine Mercy
—https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/chaplet-13364
•Other prayers for protection
—St. Michael the Archangel
—https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/prayers-for-protection.html

Praying Act of Contrition
•This can be done every day to ask for the forgiveness of our sins, especially in circumstances where confession is not possible
•*O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. And I detest all my sins because of your just punishments. But most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.*

How to baptize in case of emergency
•In the event that a person is in danger of death and requires Baptism, even though the normal minister of Baptism is a bishop, priest, or deacon, any person who has reached the age of reason (age 7) can baptize someone.
•Pour water three times saying, *"Name (person being baptized), I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

Renew our Baptismal Promises
•*I renew my baptismal vows, I renounce Satan and all his works and all his promises. I take Jesus Christ for my model and guide and I promise to be faithful to Him unto the end of my life. Amen.*

Spiritual Reading, Videos, and Digital Formats
•Books and other resources available from Dynamic Catholic (website)
•Wordonfire.org
—See Resources where they have videos and books to read
•Formed.org
—St. Theresa Parish has a subscription made available to all parishioners. Sign in using our parish zip code (20147).

Guidance for families with children preparing for first Holy Communion and Confirmation
•First Confessions were already completed for those preparing for first Holy Communion
•Keep up current studies from school and RE classes
•First Holy Communion
—Continue to teach children how to properly receive Holy Communion, what the Eucharist is, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, and why it is sacred
—There are many good resources on Formed, Dynamic Catholic, and Word on Fire to consider
•Confirmation
—Besides the above suggestions, there is a prep-sheet, under Religious Education and Confirmation, on the parish website to continue to study for the eventual confirmation interview with one of the priests

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Keep up to date on our works and upcoming events – *Council website*: www.st-louismartin-kofc.org. *Facebook*: https://www.facebook.com/Council15256. *Twitter*: https://twitter.com/Council15256.

How to become a Knight. *Our next degree ceremony is March 29, 2020.* You can talk to any Knight after Sunday Mass or any time. You can also contact us and learn the great things that we do to help our parish and community at kofc15256@googlegroups.com. Application information and forms are also available outside the Adoration Chapel.

News from the Diocese

Live stream Masses, prayer guides and more!

(source: https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/covid19resources/

As you all know, public celebrations of the Mass are not taking place in the Diocese of Arlington until further notice. Bishop Burbidge has also dispensed all the faithful of the Diocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and holy days of obligation while public Masses are suspended.

There are, however, many ways in which you can grow in faith during this challenging time as the coronavirus spreads. Many parishes are facilitating a live stream or recording of daily and Sunday Mass. Some priests are offering spiritual reflections on social media.

Especially on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, the faithful are encouraged to devote time to prayer, observe Mass on television or the internet, and pray the Rosary, along with other devotions.

Here is a list of resources you may want to consider: All links can be found on the following website: https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/covid19resources/)

Online Mass
Bishop Burbidge Live Stream | Sunday Noon Mass at St. James
Wed. 12:05pm Mass at Cathedral

Vatican News Live Stream of Pope Francis' Masses (Daily in Italian with English subtitles)

EWTN Daily Mass (Daily)

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Sunday only)

Publisher Resources:
The following publishers have generously made their resources available to support prayer during these difficult days. We thank them for their generosity and pastoral concern.
Liturgical Press: Give Us This Day
Magnificat: English. |Spanish

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB):
Daily Readings: English | Spanish
Daily Readings Audio
Video Reflection

Prayer to Jesus for Healing and Guidance
Jesus, Son of God.
you were sent by the Father
to bear our weakness;
be with us in this time of crisis.

Merciful Savior,
heal and comfort the sick,
so that, with health restored,
they may give you praise.

Divine Physician,
accompany our caregivers
so that, serving with patience,
they may heal wisely.

Eternal Wisdom,
guide our leaders
so that, seeking remedies,
they may follow your light.

Christ, the Anointed,
protect us in body and spirit,
so that, freed from harm,
we may be delivered from all affliction.

Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Clean Out Your Garage and Donate a Bike!
Help provide transportation for those without a car! We need adult bikes in working order that will be used to help individuals travel to and from work. These bikes will be given to individuals in our Welcome Home Re-entry Program. Email mchavez@ccda.net if you would like to donate your bike! Drop off location is Catholic Charities Arlington Office (200 N. Glebe Rd.).

Donate Your Used Car to Catholic Charities and Help a Family Become Self-Reliant!
If you are thinking of replacing your old car with something new, please consider donating your old car to Catholic Charities. We take used vehicles and give them directly to families in desperate need of transportation. We accept nonworking cars to fund our volunteer programs. We handle all the paperwork. You receive an IRS donation receipt. To donate, email Cars@ccda.net or call 703.841.3898.

Marriage Encounter
Happy Easter! He has risen! Let us welcome Jesus even more into our marriages by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Sep 18-20, 2020 in Fairfax, VA and Sep 11-13, 2020 in College Park, MD. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: RenewMarriage-VANorth.org or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vanorth.org or 703.646.1521.

Catholic Charities Assistance Needed
Catholic Charities relies on volunteers who can safely serve those in need Catholic Charities is in urgent need of volunteers to safely serve those in need, as well as its need for financial and material assistance. If you are healthy and do not belong to a group considered *vulnerable, please consider our volunteering opportunities with limited interaction with the public.

Leesburg Food Pantry Help Needed
Our Leesburg Regional Office Food Pantry is extending its hours. Help is needed: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9am-12:30pm. Email mchavez@ccda.net if interested.

St. Lucy Food Project:
—Christ House Food Pantry —pack boxes and help distribute to clients. Help needed Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Sr. Annie at Aniliza.juan@ccda.net.
—Leesburg Regional Office food pantry—stock shelves and pack bags. Help needed Mondays-Thursdays. Contact Joanne Abbate at joanne.abbate@ccda.net.
—Loaves & Fishes food pantry, Front Royal —pack bags to distribute to clients. Help needed Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Contact Jeanne Jackson at jean.jackson@ccda.net.
—St. Lucy Food Project Manassas warehouse—sort food, pack boxes, load trucks. Contact Elizabeth Gibbons at Elizabeth.gibbons@ccda.net.

Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic, Manassas
—Medical providers, including doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, needed who are willing to do telemedicine and nurses who specialize in obstetrics. Contact alexandra.luevano@ccda.net or call 703.335.2779 ext. 15.
—Data entry volunteers to help establish Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic, Woodbridge, which is set to open April 20. Contact alexandra.luevano@ccda.net or call 703.335.2779 ext. 15.

Parish Offices

Secretary:	Peggy Sullivan, 703.729.2287
Secretary:	Christine Young, 703.729.2287
Business Manager:	Scott Pochick, 703.729.2287
Facilities Coordinator:	703.729.2287
Outreach Coordinator:	Marianne Guidos, 703.729.2334
Website:	www.saintttheresaparish.com
Email:	office@saintttheresaparish.com
Fax:	703.729.9036

Religious Education Offices

Director:	Larry Bayne, 703.729.3714
Youth Activities:	Paul Dwyer, 703.729.0426
Secretary:	Connie Gilligan, 703.729.3714
Secretary:	Myriam Perez, 703.729.3714
Email:	reoffice@saintttheresaparish.com
Fax:	703.729.9036

School Offices

Principal:	Erin O'Malley, 703.729.3577
Secretary:	Deena Lanier, 703.729.3577
Website:	www.stsashburn.com
Email:	schooloffice@stsashburn.com
Fax:	703.729.8068

All offices located at 21370 St. Theresa Lane, Ashburn, VA

Sacraments

Sponsor Certificates

Please contact the Parish Office to obtain a sponsor certificate prior to a Baptism or Confirmation.

Baptisms

Parents desiring Baptism for their child must attend a class, preferably before the child's birth. The classes are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Louis Martin Conference Room in the Administration Bldg. After you attend the class, you may schedule your child for the Sacrament of Baptism (Sundays 1:30pm). Date is confirmed once all paperwork is received in the office. Forms can be found on the Parish website under Faith, Sacraments, Baptism.

Matrimony

The priest must be contacted at least six (6) months prior to the wedding date.

Visit the Parish Website under Faith, Sacraments, Marriage and fill out the Marriage Preparation Questionnaire prior to contacting the Parish Office. A priest will contact you.

RCIA

Adults desiring instruction in the Catholic Faith should visit the website to register for RCIA classes.

Hospitalized/Homebound

Please contact the Parish Office to ask for Holy Communion or the Anointing of the Sick.



Masses for the Week

Mon, April 13	Joseph Wein+, Rosemary McFadden+
Tues, April 14	Thanksgiving, The Nelson Family, L+
Wed, April 15	Daniela Karbowski+. Joseph Junkroski+, Linda Ruderman+
Thurs, April 16	Thomas McFadden+, Anita M. Alvano+
Fri, April 17	Christine & Nick Carrescia, Laura Maresca+
Sat, April 18	Paul Francel+, Ann Marie Hockenbury+
Sun, April 19	Kerry Miles, Michael Demski+, Deceased Members of the O'Brien & O'Keefe Families+, St. Theresa Parishioners, Concepcion D. Alonzo & Adriano Alonzo

Pray for ...

Prayers For The Sick: Marcela Garcia, CJ Buechner, Rosemarie Setzer, Nancye Pochick, Quinn Gorman, Michael Robertson, Nickalus Shalin, Lisa Barrett-Handley, Mary Marsh, Celeste Hall, Donna Caulfield, Ethan Falciani, Mary Ann Lyons, Rosario Acot, Keith Waltower, Chris Handley, Ben Thede, Eugene Prosack, Lynn Petrara, John Spriggs, George Morelos, Carol Logue, MaryEllen Back, Apryl Binder, Carole Davidson, Cheryl Grieve, Rita Giunta, Maria Giunta, Danny Bessette, Fred Beverly, Jesse Michl, Erick Pollock, Jillian Reilly, Laurie Gessaman, Jordan Windsor, Tony Rodrigues, Stephane Papi.

Prayers For Our Military: Alexa Katharine Koenig, Mark Short, Jonathan Bayly, Russell Escalante, Eric Reilly, John Conrad, Fr. James Hinkle, Andrew Gillespie, Stephen Gilliland, David Seliquini, Brian Reese, Joseph Auler, Adam Parkinson, Jake Shelton, Patrick G. Fitzgerald, Sean Spurr, Jack Hayes, David and Katherine Bergeron, Christopher Martin, Thomas Gleason, Tony Mattice, Greg Lee, David Lakey, Jim Murray, Keith Bittle, Michael McCurdy, Steven Digangi, Michael J. Pruden, Meghan E. Fitzgerald, Bill Short, Griffin Spencer, Peter Santini, Eric Curcio, Steven Curcio, Matthew Slaughter, Joseph Alexander, Christopher Sheehan.



Easter Sunday
Believing Is Seeing

You've heard the saying "Seeing is believing." Today's first reading seems to say just the opposite. You might think that when Jesus rose from the dead, everyone would see him. Then his friends would rejoice and those who had put him to death would repent (or run as fast as they could). Yet Peter says that he was only visible to some of the disciples. Jesus did not appear to Herod or Pilate or Caiaphas. The Pharisees and scribes did not see him, either. Even the disciples did not immediately see him. The first thing they saw was the empty tomb, with burial cloths lying on the ground. They may have thought that if his enemies had stolen Jesus' body, they would not have removed the burial cloths; touching a corpse would have made them unclean.

So it seems the empty tomb helped them to believe, and believing enabled them to see the Lord. The exception to this may be Thomas, who said he would not believe until he saw and touched Jesus' risen body. Yet when he does see the Lord, Jesus himself declares that believing is primary when he blesses those who have not seen but still believe (John 20:31). I used to think that Jesus was invisible to non-believers, but Mary of Magdala saw him, thinking he was the gardener. Then she believed and recognized him.

What does this mean for us? Jesus seems to be hidden again. Yet we say that he is present in the sacraments; baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation show that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit live in us. So perhaps we just need to believe in order to see him. Mother Teresa could do it. She said she was amazed at the love she felt when she saw Jesus in the poor and the dying people of Calcutta. St. Francis saw him not only in the poor but in all creation. Maybe we need to grow in faith so that we can see Jesus in the poor, the dying, the people who annoy us, even our enemies. That is why it is so important to spread the faith; if we don't see Jesus in everyone, we may never have true peace.

Tom Schmidt,
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relevant radio 1260AM

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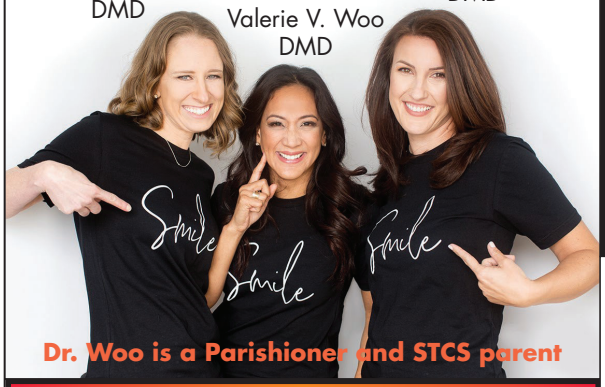



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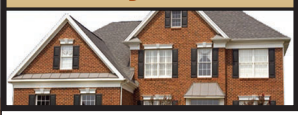
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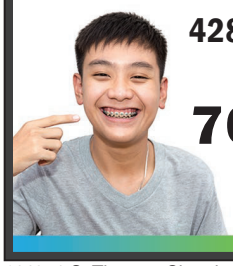
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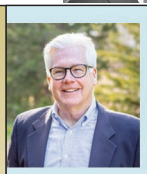
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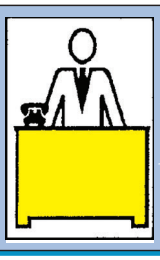
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