

A Prayer in response to the coronavirus outbreak and all illnesses



Lord Jesus, in our time of need, we bring our fears and concerns to you in faith. We are grateful for your closeness to us as we confront the adversity of the coronavirus and all illnesses as they affect those we love and countless others.

Jesus, tend to those who are suffering at this time, especially the elderly and the weak. Provide every necessary strength to our doctors, nurses, health care assistants and all those who are working to respond to this crisis.

Jesus, give us the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to face this challenge. Inspire each of us to do whatever is necessary to confront the spread of this disease. Help us to carry this cross with courage and to walk with the sick with compassion. Give knowledge to our scientists. Keep our families in your care. Heal the sick. Protect the healthy. Console the fearful. Comfort those who are isolated. Give us hope. Give us life.

Jesus, the divine physician, we trust in you.

Mary, comfort of God's children, Pray for us.

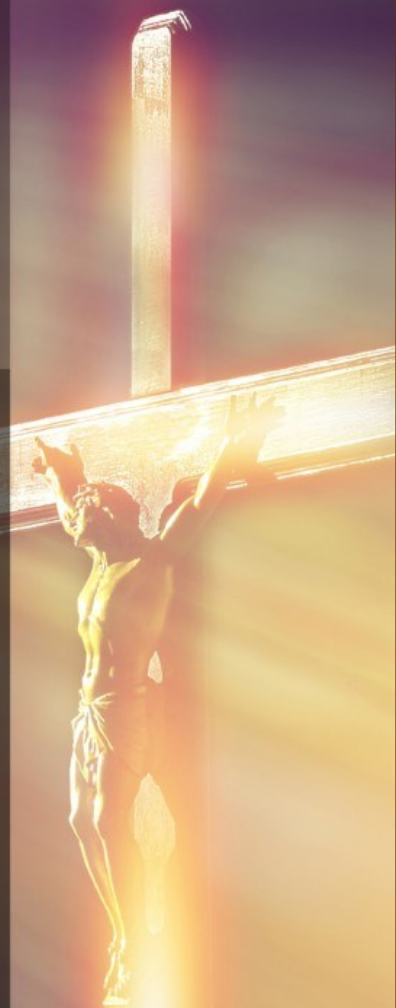
St Bernadine of Siena, patron of those with illnesses of the lung, Pray for us.

St. Albert the Great, patron of scientists, Pray for us.

We make our prayer to you this day, Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ Edward C. Malenki



To our visitors ... If you are just passing through, we are glad you chose to worship with us. If you are seeking a new church home, please know there is always room in our pews and a place in our hearts for you.

DEVIVO CENTRE

116 South 2nd Street
Connellsville, PA 15425

724.628.6840 (f) 724.628.0838

MON-THU 8:30am-noon / 1-4pm
FRI 8:30am-1pm

BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road
Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

MON, TUE, THU, FRI 9am-3pm

Confession

is currently by appointment.
Please call the DeVivo Centre
at 628-6840.

**We work with the Holy Trinity
Conference of St. Vincent DePaul**
to help our neighbors in need.
Their number is 724.562.3341.

We are grateful for the advertisers
who cover the cost of printing
our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses
in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser
is Carlow University.

Our Faith Community consists of the Parish Families
of Immaculate Conception, Connellsville
(1869), Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Dunbar
(1874), Saint John the Evangelist,
Connellsville (1895), and Saint Rita of
Cascia, Connellsville (1915).



We also embrace the former Parish Families of Saint Vincent de Paul,
Leisenring (1888-2008), Sacred Heart, Dawson (1889-2007) Our Lady
of Mount Carmel, Connellsville (1901-1913), Saint Emory, Connellsville
(1903-1970), Holy Trinity, Connellsville (1903-2008), Saint Polycarp,
West Leisenring (1917-1997).

OUR STAFF - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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DAVID PANZELLA

Cemetery Care, Connellsville/Dawson
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SAT-SUN, MAR 21-22, 2020 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult.....\$1,107.00
Loose.....8.00
Maintenance.....5.00
Total.....\$1,120.00

Cemetery.....\$20.00
Accent.....\$14.00
Easter Flowers.....\$55.00



ST. ALOYSIUS

Adult.....\$1,340.00
Parish Improvements.....50.00
Total.....\$1,390.00

Easter Flowers.....\$50.00
Accent.....\$9.00



ST. JOHN

Adult.....\$1,148.00
Maintenance.....20.00
Total.....\$1,168.00

Cemetery.....\$70.00
Holy Trinity.....\$25.00
Easter Flowers.....\$205.00
Holy Thursday.....\$10.00
Good Friday.....\$10.00
Easter.....\$20.00



ST. RITA

Adult.....\$570.00
Loose Collection.....55.00
Maintenance.....5.00
Total.....\$630.00

Cemetery.....\$38.00
Lenten Self Denial.....\$25.00

Two Masses will be offered on
Easter SUN for the intention of
those who donated for
Easter flowers.

**ALL INFO FOR THE EASTER BULLETIN
IS DUE BY TUE, MAR 31.**

April The word APRIL means
"to open". This is the
time of year that leaf
and flower buds open. In most
northern countries, this is a month
of transformation. The day is now
longer than the night. Even if the
nights are still chilly, the daytime
sun is strong and growing stronger.
The earth itself seems to take part
in the Passover of the Lord.



MAR 29, 2020
Romans 8:8-11

DEAD FROM SIN, ALIVE WITH SPIRIT

As Lent nears its end, we become
more mindful of our sins. We have
promised to renew our hearts
throughout this season. We have
accepted a spirit of penitence. The
elect, who are preparing for Bap-
tism at Easter, have received our
prayers in scrutiny rites that purify
their intentions and turn their
hearts more firmly toward Christ.

But at this stage of Lent, we may
be even more aware of our sin.
Perhaps we have not been com-
pletely faithful to our Lenten reso-
lutions. Perhaps we feel more
strongly the difficult challenge to
overcome bad habits that have
taken years to form. Lent offers
promise, but it sometimes causes
discouragement.


Sin is no stranger to the human
condition. But sin is not our natu-
ral condition. Through Baptism,
we are children of God.

St. Paul tells the Romans not to
feel disappointed by their experi-
ence of sin, because the Spirit of
God is much more powerful. "If
Christ is in you, although the body
is dead because of sin, the spirit is
alive because of righteousness."

God's Spirit raised Jesus from the
dead. The same Spirit dwells within
us. The same Spirit gives life to
our bodies prone to death.

If Lent has made us more aware of
our sin, it should also make us more
aware of God's love. God's Spirit
reaches us, holds us, and lifts us
high - in spite of our sin.

*Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the 1st/2nd
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DLA: "HELP THE LIGHT SHINE" Help the
light shine on parish improvements
projects like the installation of
energy saving solar-powered lights
at St. Bernard Parish, Indiana, PA.
Parishes depend on the support
of the Diocesan Lenten Appeal to
repair structural damages, main-
tain the grounds and make improvements to help save money in the years to
come. Support your parish. "Grow in the Lord" and donate today to the
2020 Diocesan Lenten Appeal at DioceseofGreensburg.org/GROW.

DONATE TODAY DioceseofGreensburg.org/GROW

IC	SA	SJ	SR
<u>DLA Goal</u>	<u>DLA Goal</u>	<u>DLA Goal</u>	<u>DLA Goal</u>
\$38,133	\$26,715	\$18,319	\$34,301
<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Pledged</u>
\$26,640 (69.9%)	\$13,085 (49%)	\$8,890 (49%)	\$22,026 (64.2%)
101 donors	59 donors	39 donors	99 donors

Please remember, dear parishioners of Immaculate Conception, St. John,
St. Rita and St. Aloysius, return your pledge card to your parish office.
Please mark the name of your parish on the outside of your envelope.
This helps us in the offices. Alternatively, you can make your pledge
online at donatediocesegreensburg.org.

Fr. Paul



MASS INTENTIONS



THE MASS INTENTIONS LISTED BELOW WILL BE CELEBRATED AT A PRIVATE MASS ON THAT DAY BY ONE OF OUR PRIESTS. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOUR INTENTION IS BEING FULFILLED.

SAT, MAR 28 VIGIL

- SR Donald Smith (Family)
- SA Pro Populo
- IC Anthony, Sr. & Elizabeth Bartholomai, George (Bill) Bartholomai, Anthony, Jr. & Marcia Bartholomai, Tom Zitney & Sandy Brooks (Family)

SUN, MAR 29 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

- SR John Rulli & Joyce Rulli Bartley (The Rulli Family)
- SA Robert Stoken (Susan & Dave Ballard)
- IC Sylvester & Melvina Rendine (Stanton & Paula Fogie)
- SJ James & Bridget Andursky (Stephen, Angela & Olivia Andursky)

MON, MAR 30 LENTEN WEEKDAY

- SR Celeste "Theresa" Mongell (Family)
- SA Joseph L. Villaneuva (Luanne Turek)

TUE, MAR 31 LENTEN WEEKDAY

- SJ Sylvia & Andrew (Rudy) Zerecheck & Theresa Ansel (Clara)
- SA Mary & Dorothy Farris (Leonard)

WED, APR 1 LENTEN WEEKDAY

- SR John Partridge (John & Nikki Holonich & Girls)
- SR Kapella Family (Family)

THU, APR 2 ST. FRANCIS OF PAOLA, HERMIT

- IC Tom Duncan (Family & Friends)
- SA Margaret Grimm (Jim & Stephanie Stefano)

FRI, APR 3 LENTEN WEEKDAY

- SR Ronald Haggerty, Sr. (Wife & Family)
- SA Brent Blake (Sean & Natalie Mowbray & Family)

SAT, APR 4 VIGIL/ST. ISADORE, BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

- SR Frank Arcangelini (Sister, Grace Corona)
- SA Anna Giobbi (Ron & Joann Park)
- IC Florian Goron, Jr. (Maurita, Joe, Pat & Kristi)

SUN, APR 5 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

- SR Pro Populo
- SA Jackie & Eugene Baker (The Porterfield & Dumm Families)
- IC Tommy McGuinness (Grandma Iaquina & Uncle Dan)
- SJ John F. Painley (Bernadette Russell)

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Scottdale Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center has asked that people consider sending their residents greeting cards to brighten their spirits during these non-visitation times. There are about 35 people living there. You may send cards c/o Jody Carnes, 900 Porter Avenue, Scottdale PA 15683

You may still buy St. John's frozen pirohi, by calling Stephanie/Toni at 628-8878.



Ladies of Charity, with the help of others, are planning to deliver hyacinths and Easter cards to all our homebound parishioners.

Deliveries can be made on SAT, APR 4, SUN, APR 5, or early in Holy Week. Your help would be most appreciated. To volunteer or for more info, call Theresa at 628-4034.

Volunteers are needed to pick up/deliver meals for Community Ministries' food distribution effort. If you can help, please call Mary Sampey at 628-6840.

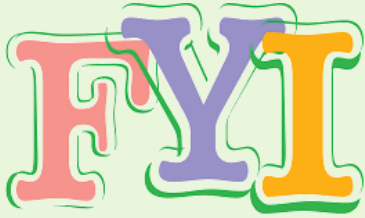
These items are needed for their mobile food bank at the Community Center. They should be dropped off at 201 East Fairview Avenue from 10am-1pm.

- ♦ diapers, baby food, formula, wipes
- ♦ deodorant, toothpaste/brush, soap
- ♦ granola bars, oatmeal (ready-made breakfast)
- ♦ peanut butter and jelly
- ♦ juice boxes or bottles of juice
- ♦ canned soup, ravioli, ready-made meals (heat/serve pasta and sauce)



Please remember these people on our prayer list:

Barb Check, Mason Collins, Joe Connell, Jim Garstecki, Doug Pirl, Karla and Kevin Tressler, John Emanuel, Joanne Fox, Robert Ruck, Eugene Onusko, Patrick and Joan Frazier, Esther Ziska, Paul B, Mario Scotto-DiMarco and Joe Maiese.



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

EFFECTIVE WED, MAR 18, 2020 BISHOP MALESIC TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED ALL PUBLIC MASSES IN OUR DIOCESE.

Churches are to remain open for private prayer a few hours each day as local circumstances permit.

In our parishes, St. Rita Church will be open for private prayers from 11am-1pm daily ... that is 7 days a week

Bishop Malesic urges the faithful to remember in their prayers all those whose lives have been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. "This is a seriously contagious illness. We

trust that God will see us through but we must do our part to not overwhelm our hospital systems. We have a responsibility to our neighbors. These actions help us to be proactive in the spread of the disease," the Bishop said.

Bishop Malesic asked that priests continue to offer private daily Masses for all published parish Mass intentions, as well as offer additional prayers at these Masses for the protection of our flock during this time of crisis. Priests will continue to respond to all pastoral emergencies and provide Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum for the critically ill and dying.

♦ **All other parish gatherings are suspended, but may continue electronically if possible.**

♦ **Those who require the sacrament of reconciliation should contact their parish for an appointment.**

Our parish bulletins will be available for distribution beginning on SAT mornings at each of our 4 churches. They will be in plastic bins at the front door of St. Al and St. Rita, and at the side door of IC and St. John. Help yourself and feel free to take bulletins to others. Please make sure the lid is securely replaced on the bin to keep bulletins in place for the whole week. New bulletins will be available SAT mornings for the upcoming week.

Both parish offices are still open for regular hours. I ask you to handle all parish business over the phone. The staff will be here to answer your phone call or reply to your email.

FR. PAUL

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas,

We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.



COLLECTIONS AND PLEDGES. I continually thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to your parishes. As we go through this time of trial and adjustment to our daily routines, even as it affects our daily practice of our faith, I ask you to continue to support your parish with your gifts of time, talent and treasure. Continue to talk to God (which is prayer), as we strive to adapt ourselves to our ever-changing world. Please be sure to also listen to God as He responds to our needs. Continue

to use your talents to further God's kingdom here on earth by sharing yourself with those who are truly struggling through this crisis. Some of our fellow parishioners may be experiencing loneliness during isolation. Reach out to engage them over the phone and inquire if they need any assistance and if you could render it to them. I would also remind you that we are in the midst of our DLA drive. Many parishioners have made a pledge to their own parish and I am truly

grateful. You may continue to make your gifts either by mail or by dropping them off at the parish offices. You may also submit your weekly contribution (SUN collection envelope) in the same manner. Your parish is totally dependent on your generosity and in these situations we must still continue to meet our bills and financial obligations. You are in our prayers and may each of us respond to God's call and Jesus' example at this time.

FR. PAUL

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

MON: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

TUE: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

WED: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

THU: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

FRI: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

SAT: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

SUN: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 - 27:66 [27:11-54]



Next SUN, APR 5, is Palm Sunday. If the restrictions on large gatherings have not been lifted by the governor at that time, please know that Fr. Julius, Fr. Dan and myself will bless palms at our private Masses, and they

will be available outside all 4 churches next to the bulletin containers on SUN morning. Please help yourself to as many of the blessed palms as you will use. It is customary to take palm branches home, adorn our crucifixes and holy pictures with them during this Holy Season. Palms may also be used to adorn the graves of our deceased loved ones. The palms are placed on or by the grave markers. Some Catholics make crosses out of the palms for this purpose.

“THE ONE WHO EXEMPLIFIED QUALITY”.

How well do you know this Jesus of Nazareth? Suppose that you were one of the disciples, but happened to be away from the others in some town in Judea or Galilee. Someone asks, “What is Jesus like? What makes you want to be one of His followers?” These questions are some we might want to ask ourselves today. Although we have heard stories about Jesus all our lives, do we really know Him?

We do know that there was something about Jesus that made people flock to hear Him, He struck a note of authenticity. He was genuine. His words rang true. He lived out what He taught. He was humble, yet confident. He upheld the old laws and traditions, yet He understood the need for compassion and understanding. For example, He healed a man on the Sabbath, even though such work was considered improper then. What Jesus taught was practical for

every-day living. He understood the trials people face. To those in mourning He promised comfort. He said the downtrodden and meek would “inherit the earth,” the merciful would receive mercy in return. When people felt unable to pray satisfactorily, He said, “Don’t heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do”. Pray as to a father, to someone close to us.

The greatest benefit of knowing Jesus is the fact that we come to know what God is like. God is the course of truth. God is compassionate, loving and understanding. God accepts and forgives. God’s laws were made not as a reason for punishing us for one misdeed, but as a guide for living life at its best. Jesus brings the divine and the human together.

As we seek to bring greater quality into our lives, we do well to get to know the one who exemplified quality. We cannot equal Him, but we can follow Him as closely as possible.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW TO THE RCIA? As you might imagine, our current worldwide health



emergency has caused disruption throughout the Universal Church. Nowhere is this more visible than in the RCIA where catechumens anxiously awaiting baptism and candidates eagerly looking forward to their full reception into the Catholic Church are feeling confused, disappointed and somewhat lost. Many are concerned about what will happen now and how their formation which for most is entering its preparatory phase will play out.

While we don't know when initiation will happen we are committed to continuing our preparation. We are offering an online format for our RCIA participants and we encourage all of our parish adults to look at it as well. It's free and very informative. Think of this as God's way of giving you a closer look at Our Faith during this time of worry and stress - a great gift in a time of trial. This is NOT the time to practice "social distancing" from God. Grow closer to him. Go to www.mycatholic.life Enjoy!



IC is hosting a trip on SAT, AUG 29 to see QUEEN ESTHER at the Sight & Sound Theatres

in Lancaster. The cost of \$150 includes bus, show and dinner. There are only 48 tickets, so get yours ASAP. Call Guy or Patty at 880-4919 to make a reservation, or with any questions. A \$25 deposit per ticket, payable to IC, reserves your spot. You may mail your reservation to the DeVivo Centre at 116 South 2nd Street, or put it in the drop box there. *Balance of payment is due by MON, JUN 1.*

I remember sitting in my *Gospel of John* class with Dr. John Bergsma at Franciscan University on the day we came to John 11: The Raising of Lazarus. I already had deep respect for my professor. Dr. Bergsma had been studying the Gospel of John his entire career, and was still extremely passionate about the text itself. On this day, however, my respect for him rose to a completely different level as I witnessed the sheer love he had for Jesus.

When we got to the passage in which Martha exclaims, “Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world,” Dr. Bergsma actually began to weep profusely in the middle of class! In fact, he couldn’t even get through the reading of the passage (even though he had probably read it hundreds of times). After a few minutes, he simply uttered, “This is a beautiful profession of faith.” We all sat there, not sure what to do. I remember being in complete awe, thinking about how many times I had read that passage and had completely taken for granted what Martha was saying. I had never internalized how powerful her words were until that moment.

Going back to the beginning of the story, you will notice that when Jesus hears of the illness of Lazarus, he actually delays his travel to Bethany. You may be asking yourself, “If Jesus loved Lazarus and his family so much, why in the HECK would He WAIT to go see him?” The very fact that Jesus waits leads the reader to believe that the death and resurrection of Lazarus is a “premeditated” act of Jesus’ love. By the time Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been dead four days. As many have pointed out, the Jewish understanding was that the

first three days of death were an intermediate state, in which the soul stayed close to the body. But after three days, death was final. **It’s a bit like Billy Crystal’s routine as Miracle Max when examining the dead body of Wesley in *The Princess Bride*. “There’s a big difference between mostly dead and all dead!” In this case, Lazarus is all dead.**

Martha is consistently the more extroverted and proactive of the two sisters. While Mary sits and weeps, Martha goes to meet Jesus, and more or less rebukes him: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” But she is not subtle about what she wants Jesus to do: “Even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Martha gets a bad rap in the gospels, always being compared unfavorably with her sister Mary, who “chose what is better.” But look again at her profession of faith; “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world!” Homerun, Martha! I want to be like her. This is a confession that ranks with that of Peter and Thomas in other parts of the Gospels. Which raises an interesting question: Does the text suggest that the resurrection of Lazarus is in part a response to Martha’s faith-filled request?

After this, Mary comes to Jesus and repeats Martha’s implicit protest as she falls at the Lord’s feet: “Lord, if you had been here ...” In response to Mary’s weeping and that of the other mourners, Jesus becomes “perturbed” - in verse 33 and also 38. The Greek word used here is very strong, which translated literally means, “he became angry within himself.” What is the cause of Jesus’ anger? The fact of death in a fallen, sinful world? A lack of faith among the mourners? It is often said that the

Gospel of John portrays Jesus as most clearly divine among all the Gospels; at the same time, John portrays Jesus in some of the most deeply human moments of his ministry: “Jesus wept.”

The Lord commands the stone to be taken from Lazarus’ tomb, but Martha intervenes with a very down-to-earth objection: “Lord, there will be a stench ...” So practical: the response of someone accustomed to good housekeeping and high standards of hygiene. Our Lord points out that her worries are in contradiction to her expression of faith only a few minutes earlier. The calling forth of Lazarus, as dramatic as it is, remains only a miracle in the physical order. The greater miracles are in the realm of the spirit.

The raising of Lazarus, like the previous Lenten gospels from John, points to Baptism. When Jesus commands Lazarus to be “loosed” and “let go,” he employs the Greek verb *luô* - which is used elsewhere in the Scripture when someone is being loosed from Satan’s power; from sin and death. Jesus also uses the Greek *aphiêmi*, which usually means “forgiven of sin” in the Gospels. This resurrection, then, is also a “release” and “remission” of sin, death, and Satan; a further portrayal of Baptism. Lazarus does not merely point to a resurrection of the body, but rather to a greater resurrection and “rebirth” of the Spirit and soul in Baptism. As Christians, we ourselves have been called to “die” unto ourselves; to “let go” and enter into new life in Christ.

As we draw closer to Jesus’ glorious Resurrection, may we all experience the faith of Martha, the love of Mary, and the rebirth of Lazarus.

Christ’s peace
and our Mother Mary’s love,
Mary Sampey

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION?

This is a long-standing practice of our Catholic faith.

St. Teresa of Jesus wrote: "When you do not receive Communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you."

[The Way of Perfection, Ch. 35]

A spiritual communion can be offered by anyone who desires a deeper union with Christ and is unable to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. There are many reasons why one may not be able to receive holy Communion. It may be due to the fact that one is not Catholic; those who have been away from the Church for a long time and have not yet made a good confession; those who are living in a state of serious sin; and also for those who are sick or homebound. This form of prayer is most appropriate in the current situation when members of the faith are unable to attend Mass.

THE FOLLOWING PRAYER SERVICE CAN BE USED TO MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Where possible light a candle to symbolize Christ, the Light that has conquered the darkness.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Leader: The Lord is always attentive to the needs of His people and makes all things new through the glory of the resurrection. Let us praise him! Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

All: Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

God of light, by whose Spirit all things are made new, we praise you for the gift of life, for the blessing of a new day, for your mercy that makes each day a fresh start and offers hope in time of darkness.

All: Grant us the strength to walk in your light, the grace to experience your presence with us, and the hope that comes from being made new in Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: REVELATION 21:3-5, 6B-7

Reader: I heard a loud voice from the throne saying "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said "Behold, I make all things new." I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

REFLECTION

Leader: God promised all things new again. It's a constant promise made by God, from the lips of Isaiah to the triumphant cry of Christ risen from the dead: "Behold, I make all things new." The ability to make things new again even better than the original creation, is a prerogative of God. God Himself is ever new - He never ages for He is eternal. Moreover, because He is infinite, we will never cease seeing new insights of his beauty and magnificence; for all eternity we will never be bored. When we say that God is immutable, unchanging, this is not to say that He lacks life, but rather, that He is so alive that He does not lose any of his perfection, but is always new. So too with the Church, and

HOW CAN I MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION?

The key in making a spiritual communion is to express to the Lord your faith in His merciful love and his real presence in the Eucharist. Remember, you are making a spiritual communion because you are unable to receive the Eucharist at Mass. The following prayer service can be used to make a spiritual communion. Here are 4 easy steps to guide you:

1. Make an act of faith - Express to Jesus your faith in His real presence in the Eucharist.
2. Make an act of love - Offer a prayer of love and gratitude to the Lord.
3. Express your desire to receive Him - Because you are not able to physically receive Jesus, express to Him your desire to receive Him in your heart.
4. Invite Jesus to come into your heart - Ask Jesus to come to you as He would if we were able to receive the sacrament of holy Communion.

with each one of us, her members...We have God's divine life within us. We walk in newness of life, designed to sing a new song of praise to God forevermore.

Fr. McLean Cummings (preciouslifemissions.org/FrCummings/Homilies)

PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER (ANIMA CHRISTI)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, embolden me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within thy wounds hide me. Never permit me to be parted from you. From the evil Enemy defend me. In the hour of my death call me. And bid me come to thee, that with your saints I may praise thee for age upon age. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: We trust in God, who makes all things new. Let us lift up to him our prayers, saying:

All: Lord, you make all things new.

Leader: For those who feel they are out of second chances, fill them with hope in you.

All: Lord you make all things new.

Leader: For those who are broken and seeking the truth, guide them to the fullness of faith in you.

All: Lord, you make all things new.

Leader: For children, parents, and teachers, keep them always in the care of your redeeming love.

All: Lord, you make all things new.

Leader: Our Father...

CONCLUSION

Leader: 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 Your 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 us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

All: Amen