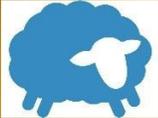
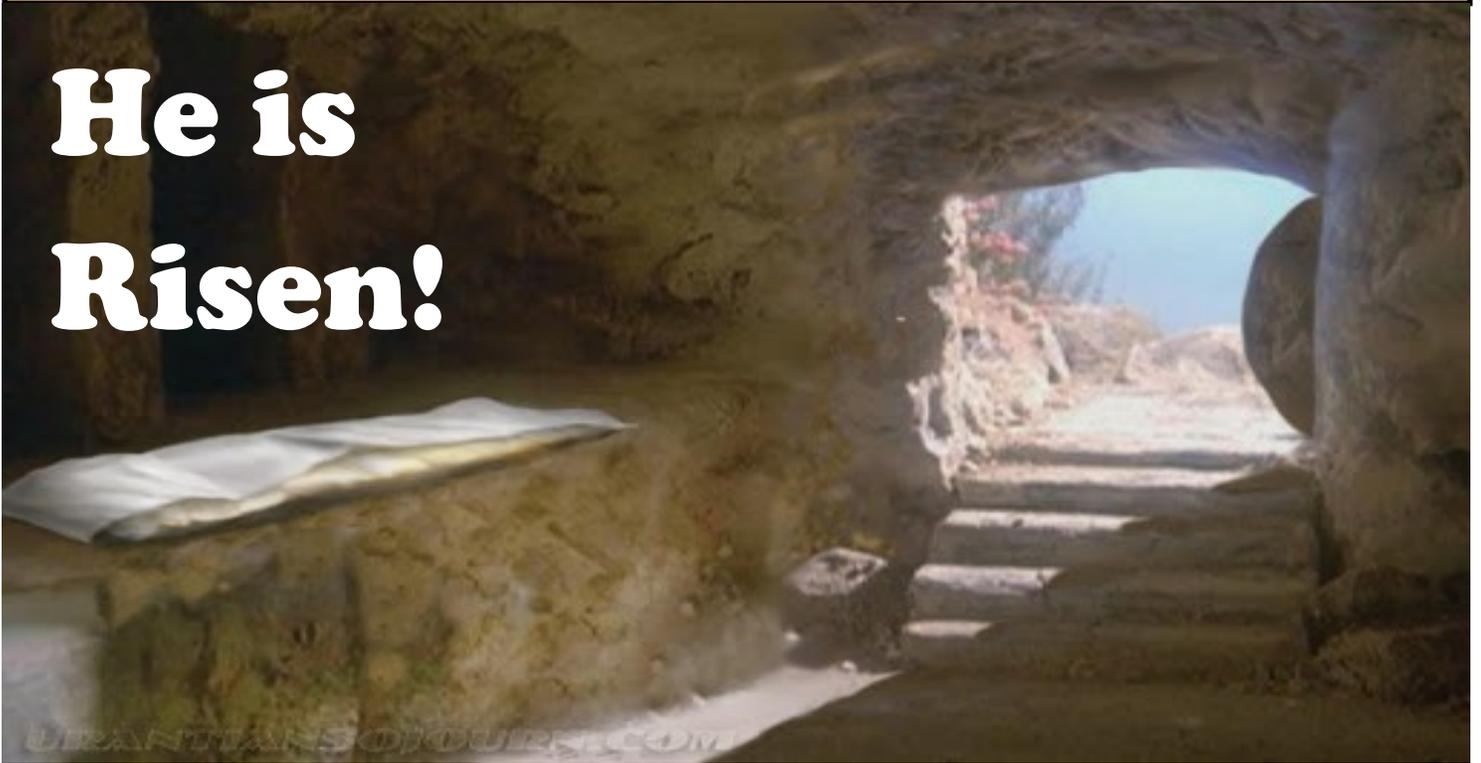


April 12th, 2020 | Easter Sunday the Resurrection of the Lord | (826)

# Saint Denis Parish

85 Main Street / Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430

# He is Risen!



[www.SaintDenisAshburnham.com](http://www.SaintDenisAshburnham.com)

Join Flock Notes: Text "StDenis85" to 84576

Join Formed <https://formed.org> Use Code 6DF8JG



## LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday – 4:30 pm  
Sunday – 8:00 & 10:30 am

## DAILY MASSES

Monday – Wednesday 9:00 am

## RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 – 4:00 pm  
or by appointment

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday  
10:00 - 3:00pm.  
Office 24/7 available  
on website:

[www.saintdenisashburnham.com](http://www.saintdenisashburnham.com)

Bulletin requests, Prayer requests  
Mass Intentions, Event Tickets  
Calendar requests, Join Parish

## PRIEST ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Richard Reidy  
508-981-5993  
[rreidy@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:rreidy@worcesterdiocese.org)

## DEACON

Deacon Richard DesJardins  
978-343-6367

## SECRETARY/OFFICE

Andrew W. Gage  
[StDenis@comcast.net](mailto:StDenis@comcast.net)  
978-827-5806

## RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE

Administrator of Rel ED  
Kimberly Brown  
978-827-4892  
Cell 508-331-0162  
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## SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

978-790-1923

## BAPTISMS

Deacon Richard DesJardins  
978-343-6367

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978-827-5806  
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Weddings, Funerals,  
Pastoral Care, etc.

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[https://saintdenisashburnham.org/  
cemetery](https://saintdenisashburnham.org/cemetery)



**Easter 2020**  
**Office of the Bishop**  
**Diocese of Worcester**



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been called the “unseen enemy.” The coronavirus has brought illness and death to the afflicted; fear, isolation and disruption to us all.

On Easter Sunday, Jesus’ first followers saw the remedy for their fears. Days before, beginning with the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane and His Crucifixion on Calvary, they had experienced fear and seen death. Indeed, the threat of death caused not only fear but isolation and disruption as they ran from Jesus in the garden and nearly all abandoned Him at the Cross.

But on Easter Sunday He was there again, in their midst, back from the dead, bringing them together and reassuring them with His words, “peace be with you.” Today he says the same to us. He is present to us. We do not see Him with our eyes. But with faith we know Him to be among us, risen and triumphant. He is the unseen ally, always present, always able to help us against all enemies, seen and unseen.

The presence of the coronavirus has and will shape our lives for a time. Even more so, may the presence of the Risen Christ at all times shape our lives, our outlook, and our confidence.

Scientists work to develop a vaccine to prevent further infections of our bodies from viruses around us. We pray for those scientists and heed their sound advice. Jesus Christ is the complementary antidote for our souls to strengthen us spiritually against all the inevitable things in life that we face and fear - sickness, isolation, sin, uncertainty and even death.

While this is a very different Easter, in its essence it is the same. *How* we celebrate differs but *what* we celebrate and it’s meaning for us remain the same. May the Triumph of the Risen Christ give you and your loved one’s peace, hope and confidence. I pray that God will protect you and your loved ones along with all who strive to maintain public health, order, and the necessities of life. May it be God’s will that before this Easter Season is over, we will be through the worst of this pandemic so that we can gather again, stronger in faith, united in Christ, to give joyful thanks to God around the altar in the Eucharist.

With every prayerful best wish for a joyous Easter, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

# Pastor's message | Notices | Offertory Update



Happy and Blessed Easter to All. Think of the joy of that first Easter. Christ's followers had been crestfallen, separated and dispersed after His tragic death on Good Friday. All their dreams seemed to have died with Jesus on the Cross. But three days later with the dawn on Easter and the message of an Angel the greatest reversal in the history of the world took place.

Jesus, risen from the dead, would appear to His disciples saying "peace be with you". What joy that message brought.

But think for a moment of the Gospel accounts of Easter. Jesus separately appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to Saint Peter, and to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus before appearing to the eleven (joined by the return of those two disciples). Those Easter appearances to one, two and then thirteen people were not huge gatherings but they engendered great joy because of the momentous consequences of the Resurrection for every human person.

This Easter, from Saint Peter's at the Vatican to Saint Denis in Ashburnham, Masses, and gatherings will be on a par with the size of those appearances of Christ on the first Easter Sunday. But just as those few who encountered the Risen Christ on Easter were seized with great joy, so, too, our spiritual joy on Easter is not diminished by the small size of this year's gatherings. The measure of our joy comes from the meaning of Easter, not from the number gathered at one place to celebrate it. This year the size of our gatherings will be smaller but the meaning and relevance of Easter will be greater.

In this time of uncertainty and vulnerability, sickness and death, the triumph of Christ over all adversity including death, bring joy, perspective, and peace to those who believe in Him. Easter brings joy because we know that goodness, love and life triumph over evil, tragedy, and death. We all have our Crosses and Good Fridays to face. We have our Holy Saturdays to pass through. Our nation and the world are suffering through them now. Easter reminds us that in this very vulnerable and uncertain moment that sickness, suffering, death, and uncertainty do not have the final word. Rather, those who believe will share in Christ's triumph over all adversity.

So though your gatherings will be small, may your joy be great and may your hearts be filled with hope and confidence. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!



"Members of the St. Denis St. Vincent de Paul Conference thank you for the continued support of donations. Every single offering has enabled St. Vincent de Paul to continue to provide confidential assistance to those who may be going through a difficult time. God works through all of us to show his love for each individual.

We anticipate more needs to surface in the upcoming weeks due to the effects of the Covid-19 virus. St. Vincent de Paul also regularly contributes to the Ashburnham Community Church and People's Church food pantries to support their food assistance to those in need. If anyone can drop off non-perishable food donations to either church, the contribution will be greatly appreciated. Someone receives food at the Community Church on Monday, Wed and Fridays from 9-10. Use the red doors at the front of the church."

## DRIVE-BY CONFESSIONS

Father Reidy will be available for confessions on Saturdays 3:30 pm-4 pm, Good Friday, April 10, from 5 pm to 6 pm, and on Holy Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Fr. Reidy will be outside in the rear of the Church parking lot. Anyone wanting to go to Confession can approach in their car, lower the window, and make their Confession from their car while maintaining a safe distance. If there is a car ahead of you, please keep a distance back from the car next to Fr. Reidy so that we can assure the confidentiality of the sacrament. If more than one person in a single-car wishes to confess, the Church will be open for people to wait their turn so only one person needs to be in the car at a time. If a non-driver wishes to make a Confession, the driver can pull up, exit the car and return after the Confession is complete. Please note that the confessions will only be face to face.



Many thanks to all who have made online contributions or mailed in your envelopes to support Saint Denis Parish in this challenging time. We are very grateful for your loyalty and support. Not everyone is in a position to be able to continue their regular support. We understand. However, if you are able, please see the instructions for online giving or drop your checks in the mail to the parish. Above all, let us pray for one another and for the continued spiritual growth of our parish and for an end to the pandemic and disruption that it has brought to our nation and our world.

## Let us honor God with our first fruits rather than the leftovers

*During this time of trial where the parish will be closed due to virus concerns. We still need to maintain our church. Please consider donating through Online Giving to keep the parish strong! You may also mail in your envelopes to:*

**St Denis Parish, 85 Main St., Ashburnham, MA 01430.**

Since 4/5/20

Envelopes Mailed:

Regular Envelopes	\$	1,562.00
Parish Needs	\$	140.00
Good Friday	\$	5.00
Fuel	\$	10.00
Cemetery	\$	120.00
Easter Flowers	\$	10.00
Easter	\$	20.00
Online Giving	\$	515.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,382.00</b>

zSince 4/5/20

Diocese Donations:

Catholic Relief	\$	5.00
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**Thank you for your generous support of the parish. Your weekly financial support enables Saint Denis to provide for the community.**

Online Giving

# Online and TV Sources for Practicing our Faith

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

**How to watch Mass.** As public celebration of the Mass and the obligation to attend have been suspended, you can watch the Mass on cable TV or streaming on your computer from the following sources:

### **Diocesan TV Mass from Saint Paul Cathedral:**

Cable:

Spectrum (Charter): Channel 193 at 9 am on weekdays and 10 am and 6 pm on Sundays.

Internet:

<https://livestream.com/dioceseofworcester/dailymass>

(at any time)

### **Holy Week Schedule: (To follow along in prayer from Home)**

Holy Thursday 7 PM

Good Friday 7 PM

Holy Saturday 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday 8 AM

### **EWTN TV:**

Cable:

Spectrum (Charter Cable): TV Channel 18. Mass shown daily at 8 am, noon, 6:30 pm and midnight.

Comcast: TV Channel 056 and 238

DirectTV: TV Channel 370

Dish: TV Channel 261

Internet:

You can also stream the EWTN Mass on the internet at the same times at <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live/united-states>.

### **Other Masses:**

Cable:

Catholic TV (from Boston) Spectrum (Charter) Channel 101; 9:30 am, 12:30 pm, 7 pm and 11:30 pm.

Internet: <https://wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

Radio:

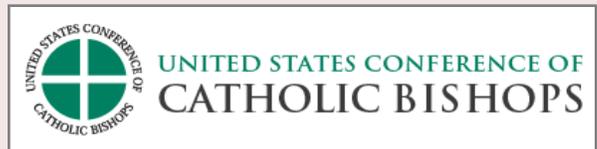
EWTN Daily and Sunday Mass at radio stations 1230AM; 970AM; 101.1 FM; courtesy of Emmanuel Radio. Other Catholic programming available 24/7.



## Daily Mass Readings

If you would like to read some Scripture each day, the daily Mass readings are an ideal way to track the Lenten journey of Our Lord to Calvary. The readings reveal how much God loves each one of us. We might ask ourselves three questions when reading the Scriptures: 1) what does this passage reveal to me about God? 2) what does this passage reveal about me? 3) what is God asking of me?

You can find the daily readings at USCCB Daily Readings [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) along with helpful meditations in the Living with Christ booklets.



## Complete TV and Streaming Schedule for Holy Week from Saint Paul's Cathedral

**HOLY THURSDAY 9:00 am Office of Readings (English) 9:30 am Office of Readings (Spanish) 7:30 pm Pontifical Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)**

**GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD 9:00 am Good Friday Devotion (English) 9:30 am Good Friday Devotion (Spanish) 3:00 pm Pontifical Liturgy (English) 4:00 pm Liturgy (Spanish)**

**EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT 7:30 pm Pontifical Mass (Bilingual)**

**EASTER SUNDAY 10:00 am Pontifical Mass (English) 11 am Mass (Spanish)**



### **Church Open/Parish Office Closed.**

Please note that the Father Lacey Center and the Parish Office will be closed until May 4. The Church will be opened Monday through Friday from 8 am to 8 pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to noon. Please come by to pray in the presence of Our Lord at Saint Denis Church. Please respect social distancing in the Church as well as a maximum occupancy of 9 at any one time

# Ways to Financially Support Your Church and Community



As we mentioned last week in the bulletin, after conferring with the parish council and finance committee chairs, we are endeavoring to keep our staff employed during the slowdown of Parish life. In addition to salaries, we have our regular operating expenses. We are very grateful to those who made online contributions last week as well as to those who mail in their checks. Understanding that not everybody in the present circumstances may be able to do so, we are appealing to those who can to continue supporting our Parish through mailing in your checks or through online giving. Many thanks.

## Online Giving Instructions

Online giving is easier than you think. All you need is a computer or phone and a credit card or even direct bank transfer. You can do a one-time payment or set up weekly or monthly payments. If you are not sure, try a one-time payment to check it out. Our site is fully secured and private.

- 1) Go to: [www.stdenisashburnham.com](http://www.stdenisashburnham.com)
- 2) Choose "Online Giving" from the top bar.
- 3) Click "Offertory"
- 4) "Chose A Fund" (i.e. Sunday Mass Offertory)
- 5) Add Amount and check the checkbox to make it a recurring payment.
- 6) Follow the prompts to edit payment data
- 7) Click "Submit"

Online Giving will instruct you on how to enter payment and set up an account if you choose to. By setting up an account you can change your giving at any time, check how much you have given, provide a steady income for your church even when you are away on vacation or worse a pandemic strikes that disrupt all business. No bounced check fees, and if you give a small amount every week you do not even notice it. I also use the Credit Card which provides protection from fraud.



Notices for Corona Virus situation

*Governor of Massachusetts has ordered all businesses and organizations closed until at least May 4th.*

### Closures:

- No Public Masses, No Daily Communion Services
- Religious Ed Closed until further notice
- Knights of Columbus Meetings
- Marriage Matters, Ladies Spiritual Enhancement Group
- Keygma Prayer Bible Study, All-Parish meetings
- Parish Business Office Closed (Except phone, online)

### Still open:

*It is requested that anyone sick or has a sick family member voluntarily not come to these events, to avoid the spread of the virus.*

- Individual Prayer in the Church  
Open 8 am– 8 pm Daily and 8 am-noon Sat & Sunday  
**Please note Minimum Distance 6+ feet between people**
- "Confessions available Saturdays 3:30 pm-4 pm, Good Friday, April 10, from 5 pm to 6 pm, and on Holy Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in the parking lot." Anointing of the sick, Please Call 978-827-5806  
Special Priest assigned to this duty
- Funerals (Immediate Family only)
- Phone, E-mail and Web services
- St Vincent De Paul - 978-790-1923  
*Having trouble surviving due to the Coronavirus?  
St Vincent De Paul may be able to help. Please call us for assistance with Fuel oil, food, and other emergencies.*



## The Catholic Free Press

*Renew home delivery by using your envelope or Online Giving on the parish website*

If you receive the Catholic Free Press through the Parish, please donate this March using Online Giving!

[www.catholicfreepress.org](http://www.catholicfreepress.org) [digital.catholicfreepress.org](http://digital.catholicfreepress.org)



## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Happy Easter! He has risen! Let us welcome Jesus even more into our marriages by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Weekend. The next Weekends are Jun 6-7, 2020 in Medway, MA and Sep 12-13, 2020 in Medway, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at :

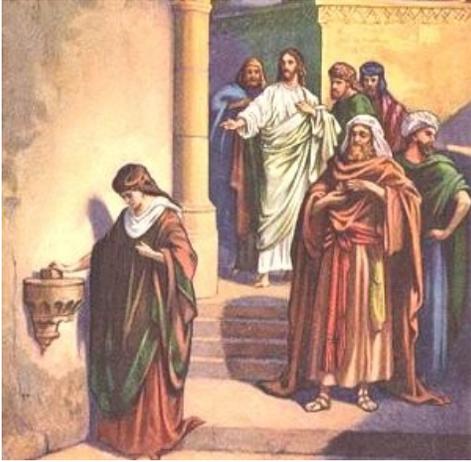
<https://wwmem.org/>.



## Lenten Mission at St. John's in Clinton - Almsgiving

### Third Night 2020

1. Jesus speaks to us of knowing how to give good gifts. Almsgiving, acts of charity, is the third traditional Lenten means of returning to the Lord, repenting of sin, and growing in holiness. Almsgiving is not unrelated to prayer – the intimate conversation drawing us to union with the God who is love and who commands us to love. Nor is love unrelated to fasting and penance which seek to detach us from material things so we can better do God's will and sacrificially love friend, neighbor, and enemy. St. Teresa of Avila said, "it is love alone which gives value to all things." And St. Paul said, "If I have faith to move mountains but do not have love, I have nothing."



2. In his apostolic letter at the beginning of the new millennium, Pope St. John Paul the Great, after speaking of the need for a renewal of a deep and demanding life distinguished in the art of prayer, spoke about the witness to love and the need to stake everything on Charity.

3. The measure of one's prayer life is not the presence of extraordinary experiences, emotional highs, raptures, or communications from God. Rather, the measure of your prayer life, its genuineness, and progress is how well you are living the Gospel. And the heart of the Gospel is love of God and the love of neighbor.

4. So with regard to almsgiving, I would like to focus on the works of mercy, corporal and spiritual. They are splendid opportunities in Lent and throughout life to be the fruit of our prayer and the object of our detachment showing the love of God and love of neighbor.

5. Except for burying the dead, the corporal works of mercy are all mentioned by Our Lord in Matthew 25:35-36, the judgment of nations. "I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you visited me." Our eternal life - heaven or hell - will depend upon how well we have responded to the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned. Ignore them at the peril of your soul, for they are Christ. They are also an ideal object of almsgiving.

6. But so are the spiritual works of mercy: to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive offenses willingly, to comfort the afflicted, to pray for the living and the dead.

7. I think the corporal and spiritual works of mercy can frequently work in tandem. The goal of our prayer is union with God. Holiness is to know, love and do God's will. St. Paul tells us that God's will is "that all men be saved." The corporal works of mercy then are not only good and necessary for us because our treatment of the least of our brothers is our treatment of Christ, but also our almsgiving - feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked and so forth - are uniquely personal acts, acts of selfless love that to the recipient and the observer create an openness to the faith. An openness that later through the spiritual works of mercy and God's grace can bring others to Christ, into a union with Him that saves their soul. How is that for a good Lenten goal or meaning and purpose in life!

8. For most people in today's society, rational philosophical propositions and appeals to authority are not the way to create an openness to hear about Christ. But love, doing what is good for the other no matter how he got himself into his fix, love can create that openness to listen, to cooperate with God's grace and come to union with Him because acts of love reflect the God of love who made the sun to shine on the evil and the good, and sends his rain on the just and the unjust, and sent his Son to die for the salvation of all. That love, that knowledge, is not only a good gift but the best gift we can give. Let us put out into the deep.

9. May such acts be the fruit of our deepened prayer. May our fasting and penances lead to a detachment that lessens our fear to sacrifice for the good of others and may that love bring us and others into union with God now and forever.

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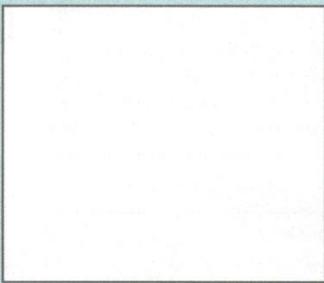
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