



*March 21, 2021*

### *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

## ***ST. PETER'S CHURCH***

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Facebook: St. Peter's Church, Liberty



### **LIVING OUR FAITH**

*Some members of the parish are doing an on-line retreat this Lent. This is a reprint of part of that spiritual exercise, based on the reading from John 12: 23-25.*

*Jesus answered them: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it; and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."*

In Jesus' day and time, almost everyone who heard him would have had farming experience or at least been exposed to farming life. It meant that Jesus could use examples and images from agriculture that would be easy for most people to understand.

For those of us in today's world who haven't had the experience of planting seeds, we have missed out on this amazing miracle. A person buries seeds – that appear to be dead – into the ground. Nothing seems to happen for a long time. Then, one day the person wakes up to see living, green shoots sprouting out of the ground. The seeds weren't dead after all!

Jesus wants us to believe that a similar cycle happens when humans experience death. When we experience the death of loved one – or a death of any sort – it may

seem impossible to imagine that new life can come from our pain. That is when we need this reminder from Jesus. Not only do we know that seeds appear to be dead before sprouting again, we have the example of Jesus showing us that death does not have the final say. We may not want to let someone or something in our life go, but we can do so in an act of faith, to act despite our feelings of pain and hopelessness, trusting that God can bring new life in some unforeseen way out of death.

**Questions for the week:** *Think of an example from your life of experiencing new life after death (the death of a loved one, or the death of a dream, a lifestyle, or a relationship). In what areas of your life are you still awaiting new life after death? Share about a time when you were asked to let go of something valuable in your life which led to a greater gain that you couldn't have foreseen at the time.*

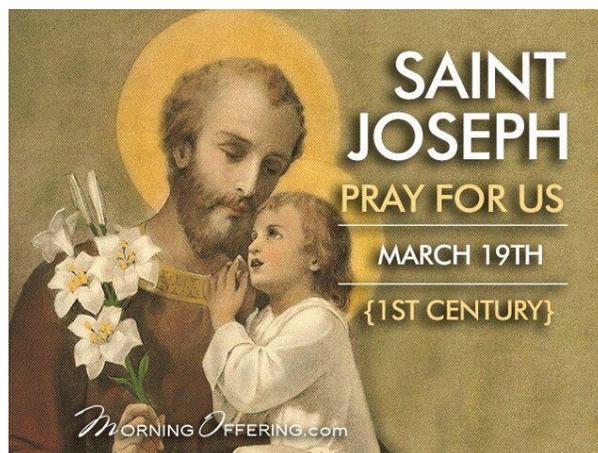
### **CARDINAL GRANTS DISPENSATION FOR FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH**

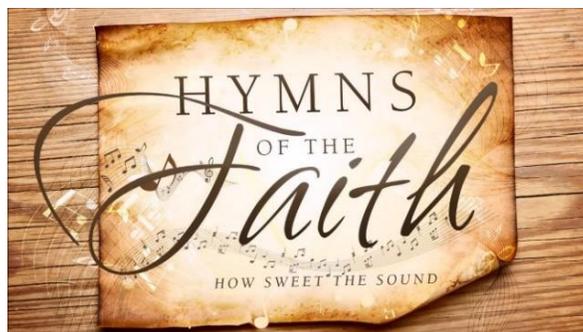
Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstinence from meat on Fridays are important Lenten obligations for every Catholic bound by age and health.

Every few years, our Lenten austerity is interrupted by one or two solemnities.

***The Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and patron saint of the universal Church is commemorated on March 19 and this year that celebration falls on a Friday of Lent. His Eminence is happy to grant a dispensation from abstinence from meat to all within the archdiocese as part of the observance of this Solemnity during the Year of St. Joseph.***

As we rejoice with a festive meal, or perhaps with sfingi or zeppole, it would be most appropriate to make a gift to one of our food pantries or soup kitchens to be sure that the poor will eat. If you decide to make use of this special dispensation, you are encouraged to choose another day during the week to abstain from meat as part of the Lenten observances.





### **THIS SUNDAY'S HYMNS**

- # 236 Out of the Depths
- # 249 Make Us True Servants
- # 260 I Am the Bread of Life
- # 225 Near the Cross

### **READINGS FOR THIS WEEKEND (March 21<sup>st</sup>)**

Jeremiah 31:31-34      Hebrews 5:7-9      John 12:20-33

### **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND (March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday)**

Isaiah 50:4-7      Philippians 2:6-11      Mark 14:1-15:47

### **SUNDAY EVENING MASS REMINDER**

Just a friendly reminder - We have added a 5:30PM Sunday evening Mass to our weekend schedule.

### **DAILY PRAYER**

Father will continue to gather with us for daily prayer Monday-Friday on Facebook Live. We will pray morning prayers at 9AM and evening vespers at 6 PM. Please send your prayer petitions to Father and he will include them in prayer.

### **PARISH CLOTHES CLOSET AND FOOD PANTRY**

Our Parish Clothes Closet and Food Pantry ministries are open every Saturday morning from 9:00am until 12:00pm. We are located downstairs in the St. Peter's School building.

### **2021 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL:**

It's not too late to make a gift or a pledge to this year's Cardinal's Appeal! Please visit [www.cardinalsappeal.org](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org) to learn more or make a gift!



***Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion***

***March 28th***

10:00 AM: Mass

5:30 PM: Mass

***Holy Thursday***

***April 1<sup>st</sup>***

7:00 PM: Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)

***Good Friday***

***April 2<sup>nd</sup>***

3:00 PM: Passion of the Lord with distribution of Holy Communion (*English*)

5:00 PM: Stations of the Cross (*English*)

7:00 PM: Passion of the Lord with distribution of Holy Communion (*Spanish*)

Immediately followed by Stations of the Cross (*Spanish*)

***Easter Sunday***

***April 4<sup>th</sup>***

10:00 AM: Mass of the Resurrection (\* ***Reservations Required***)

5:30 PM: Mass of the Resurrection

*In order to adhere to our safety protocols of social distancing, we are requiring reservations for our Easter Sunday Mass at 10:00 AM.*

***To make a reservation, please call or email the Rectory with your name, phone number/email address and the number of people attending with you.***

*Thank you for your understanding as we continue our commitment to keeping our community safe and healthy!*

# Mass Schedule

***Saturday evenings at 7 PM:***

*Mass in Spanish*

***Sunday mornings at 10 AM:***

*Mass in English*

***Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM:***

*Mass in English*

We will continue to livestream our Sunday morning Mass on Facebook Live. You can join us for Mass in person, or by logging on to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and visiting our page - St. Peter's Church, Liberty, NY. A recorded video of the Mass will also be published to our page at the conclusion of Mass.

*If you plan to join us for Mass in person, please see the end of this bulletin for details on the protocols we have put in place to keep us all safe.*

## **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Please note that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. While the church is open for Mass, all individuals who are 65 years of age or older, those with underlying health considerations and those who are not yet comfortable attending Mass in person, are strongly encouraged to stay home and participate in the Mass on Facebook Live.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

For those who continue to join us for Mass on Facebook Live who would like to receive the Eucharist, you may come to the church following the conclusion of Mass to receive. Father Ed or Deacon Don will be waiting on the front steps of the church, weather permitting, each Sunday until 11:30 AM to distribute Holy Communion. They will only be able to offer the Eucharist in the hand. Please be sure to wear a face covering, maintain a distance of 6 feet from others, and most importantly, we ask that you follow the directions of the ushers.

## **PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR IN PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE**

### ***BEFORE MASS***

- ✓ We ask you to arrive at the church no later than 9:45 AM for 10 AM Mass. (Please arrive by 6:45PM for 7 PM Spanish Mass.)
- ✓ When approaching the church, please keep in mind that all individuals and groups must keep a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals and groups.
- ✓ Everyone must wear a face covering at all times.
- ✓ There will be hand sanitizer available for those who would like to use some before entering the church.
- ✓ Before entering the church, everyone will have their temperature taken using a contact free thermometer. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be asked not to enter the church.
- ✓ Everyone will be escorted to a seat by an usher who has been designated and trained by Father Ed. Seating will be assigned from the front of the church to the back, and will be based on the next available seat, keeping social distancing in mind. Single individuals will be seated on one side of the church and families of 2 or more will be seated on the other side.
- ✓ There will be no holy water in the church.
- ✓ We will continue to send bulletins to parishioners electronically. There will be no paper bulletins in the church.

### ***DURING MASS***

- ✓ Please keep your mask on during the entire Mass, except for the brief moment when receiving Holy Communion.
- ✓ The collection will not be taken up in the traditional way. Instead, you may place your offering in the basket at the back of the church.

- ✓ Missalettes and hymnals have been removed from the pews. You are invited to take a missalette from the table at the back of the church at the beginning Mass. That will be your missalette. Please take it home with you and should you wish, bring it back for use at future Masses. Hymnals will not be available for the time being.
- ✓ There will be no offertory procession.
- ✓ Please refrain from physical contact at the Sign of Peace. Please offer a gesture such as a wave, bow or nod. Of course, this does not apply to families who have come together.
- ✓ When it is time for Communion, Father Ed and Deacon Don will make their way through the church to offer the Eucharist. There will NOT be a Communion line. When either Father or Deacon approaches your pew, please stand if you would like to receive. You may remove your mask for the brief moment of receiving Communion. Please note the Eucharist can only be offered in the hand at this time.

### ***DISMISSAL***

- ✓ At the conclusion of Mass, please remain in your seat until an usher approaches your row and dismisses you. Rows will be dismissed from the back of the church to the front. Upon leaving the church, please make your way to your car as quickly as possible, so as to avoid groups of people gathering.

### ***BATHROOMS***

- ✓ We ask that the use of the bathroom be reserved for emergencies only. If you do need to use the bathroom, please use the handicapped bathroom located in the old Convent building. Ushers will direct you should you need assistance.