

## Fear Not

**E**asier said than done. There is so much to be afraid of today: war; the loss of life and the devastation caused by it; unemployment and poverty; illness and the pain and diminishment that often accompany it; the threat of ecological collapse; to say nothing of personal anxiety and trauma. The readings for this Sunday all speak of the hardships that loom over every life.

But these hardships are not the last word. Jeremiah ends his announcement of gloom on a positive note: “Praise the LORD, / For he has rescued the life of the poor / from the power of the evildoers!” (Jeremiah 20:13). The psalm of lament picks up the same message: “the LORD hears the poor” (Psalm 69:34).

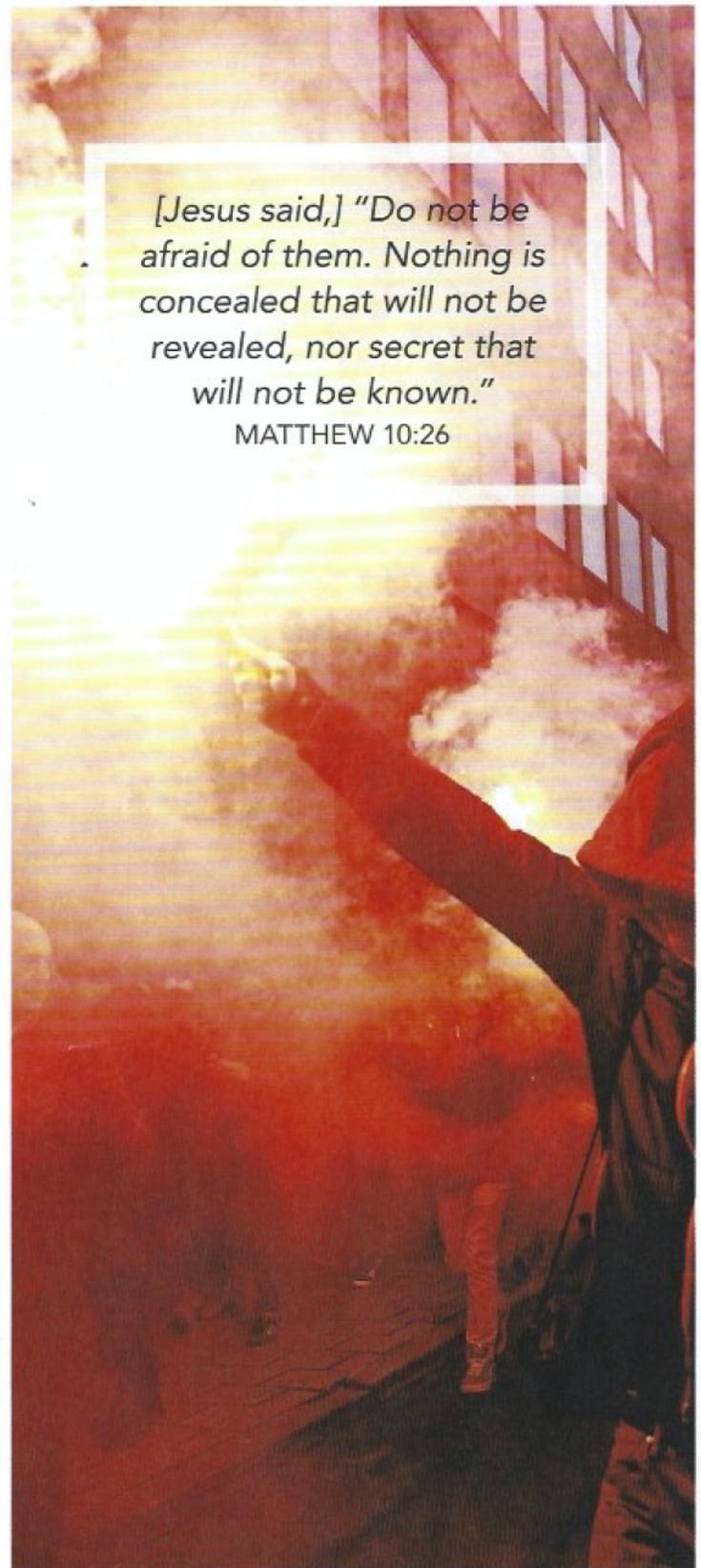
Saint Paul insists that sin and death don’t win: “...How much more did the grace of God...overflow for the many” (Romans 5:15). Caught in the throes of misfortune, people cry out—but God responds.

It is in the Gospel that the reassurance of God’s care unfolds. The struggles described there are real, but they will not last. The imagery employed to characterize God’s care is picturesque and extraordinarily tender. If God is attentive to the lowly sparrows, how much more will God be attentive to us? Even more personally, God knows us so well that the very hairs on our head are counted. The admonition here is clear: Never fear! If catastrophes threaten, don’t be afraid! Even if they engulf you or carry you away, don’t be afraid. It is only temporary. God is always there, attentive to our needs, so fear not!

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- \* *What societal situation frightens you most? Here is where you might pray for trust in God’s loving care.*
- \* *What might you do to change, even so slightly, what frightens you?*



*[Jesus said,] “Do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known.”*

MATTHEW 10:26

**Parish of the Visitation  
and St. Raymond  
St. Andrew's Church**

Fr. Garry Giroux, Pastor Office: 315-384-4242  
315-389-5401

Rev. Andrew J. Amyot, Pastor Emeritus at PVSR 315-384-2064  
Dcn. Lawrence Connelly, Retired 315-384-4879  
Dcn. John Levison at SA, PVSR 518-594-7610  
Dcn. Phil Regan at SA, PVSR 315-353-9917

**Masses:** Saturday: St. Andrew's~ 4:00pm  
Sunday: Church of the Visitation~ 10:30am  
**Confessions:** Saturday: St. Andrew's Church from 3:15pm to 3:45pm

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

Sat June 20 – **Sacrament of Penance** 11:30am – 12:00pm **ST. PATRICK'S**  
3:15pm - 3:45pm **ST. ANDREW'S**  
4:00pm **ST. ANDREW'S** – Joey Bregg by Gramma Miller, Mom, Kevin, Sarah, Uncle Randy & Uncle Rick

Sun June 21 8:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** - Intentions of the People of the Parishes  
10:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Paul Paige Jr. by Jim & Jeanette Spencer

Mon June 22 7:45am **ST. ANDREW'S** – Betsey Bell O'Brian by Nancy & Jim Besaw  
Sue Ann Cutler by The Cutler Family

Tues June 23 8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Souls in Purgatory by Ron LaRue  
9:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** – All Soul's by Parishioners

Wed June 24 9:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Laura Lavigne by Albert & Margaret Smith  
Paul Brownell by the Elizabeth Brownell Estate

Thurs June 25 7:45am **ST. PATRICK'S** – Deceased members of the Mary & Gilbert Plourde families  
by the Mary & Gilbert Plourde Estate  
8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Intention of the donor

Fri June 26 8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Rev. J. Everett Denesha & Family by the Rev. J. Everett Estate

Sat June 27 – **Sacrament of Penance** 11:30am – 12:00pm **ST. PATRICK'S**  
3:15pm - 3:45pm **ST. ANDREW'S**  
4:00pm **ST. ANDREW'S** – Intentions of the People of the Parishes

Sun June 28 8:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** – John, Anna, & Richard Demo by Bill (RIP) & Kathleen Demo  
10:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Harry "Dusty" Ryan by St. Mary's Choir Mass, Canton

**SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS**

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/norfolknorwoodraymondville/>  
Website: <https://norfolknorwoodraymondville.org>  
Email: [visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com](mailto:visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com)

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp burned this week at The Church of the Visitation for Michael LaShomb by Stephen, Anne, & Family.

You can memorialize the sanctuary candle for an offering of \$10.00. Please contact the parish office.

**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING – TITHING**

*How much time have you spent this week in prayer for others and for the work of the Church?*

**Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond**

**June 13 – 14, 2020** – \$1,555.00  
Adult Env. \$1,300.00/Plate \$100.00  
Maintenance \$75.00, Fuel \$20.00  
Catholic Charities \$50.00  
Catholic Communications \$50.00

**St. Andrew's Church**

**June 13 – 14, 2020** – \$1,302.00  
Adult Env. \$1,253.00  
Maintenance \$10.00, Catholic Home Missions \$3.00  
Catholic Communications \$33.00, Ascension \$3.00



"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. 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."

**Office for the Parishes:** 3 Morris St., Norfolk, NY 13667, 315-384-4242

All mail to Visitation Rectory, PO Box 637, Norfolk, NY 13667

**Email:** [visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com](mailto:visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com) **Website:** [norfolknorwoodraymondville.org](https://norfolknorwoodraymondville.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm, **Parish Secretary:** Terri Clemmo

**Religious Education:** Director of Faith Formation - Carol O'Brien Gonthier

## **RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASSES**

Bishop LaValley has worked with local health officials and medical professionals to provide guidance for parishes to create safe and prudent plans which are following directives to prevent the spread of the coronavirus while celebrating our faith. Our parishes have created their plans and now are putting them into practice. Please note the signs and directions posted throughout each church and posted on our Facebook site and websites. It is our hope to bring all who are able to attend Mass together.

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## **CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN & CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION**

Today's second collection supports Catholic Communication Campaign and Catholic University of America. "Connecting Communities in Christ" reaches across the United States with the Good News of Christ. The Catholic University of America, established in 1887, is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States. One-third of the collection remains in our diocese for local communication efforts, one-third assists the communication work of the U.S. Bishops and the final third supports Catholic University. Thank you for your support!

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## **MASS AT HOME**

Participating in Mass at home is participation in a real and valid liturgy. Even though we are not physically together for Mass, we are united in our love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We are in God's presence as we listen to God's word in the Scripture and acknowledge the Lord's presence in the Eucharist. Area Masses being offered can be found at this link  
<https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>

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## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

In times of crisis, when it is not possible to receive the Body of Christ, it is acceptable to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion is a deep routed desire to receive Jesus and to remain close to Him even though we are unable to be physically present with our faith community. It also applies to situations when we are present in community but cannot receive the Eucharist.

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## **CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL**

The success of the Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal relies on the generosity of our parishioners. The Appeal is a critical component of Catholic Charities' operating budget. The current restrictions on public Sunday Mass in New York State prevent us from conducting this Appeal on Mother's Day. Therefore, the 2020 Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal will be moved to Father's Day, June 21, 2020. It is our hope that we will be able to gather for Mass by that time. Information for the Appeal will be distributed via the North Country Catholic and the diocesan website. Please know that parishioners can still make online pledges at [www.cathcharities.org](http://www.cathcharities.org). If you have any questions, contact Catholic Charities Director Patrick Donahue at [pdonahue@rcdony.org](mailto:pdonahue@rcdony.org).

## **DEVELOPMENT**

**Parish Offertory** – Parishes that have opened up to 25% capacity are having a centrally located basket for offertory envelopes to be dropped into either during entering or exiting Mass. With that said, those unable to attend at this time weekly, your parish offertory gifts can be given through the mail, personal delivery to the rectory or on-line (for those who are set up accordingly) and they are still very much welcomed and appreciated.

**Capital Campaign** – The It's Our Church, It's Our Future pledge reminders will be mailed out on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> this month. For your convenience, the link below provides you the opportunity to make your pledge payment or a gift.

<https://www.rcdony.org/capitalcampaign/donate-now.html>

**2019 Bishop's Fund Appeal** – The 2019 Bishop's Fund Appeal ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Gifts received by June 30<sup>th</sup> will be credited to the 2019 appeal. For your convenience, the link below provides you the opportunity to make your pledge payment or gift.

<https://www.rcdony.org/bfa.html#donate>

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

Getting to Know Our Neighbors - During this time of reduced travel have you gotten to know any of your neighbors better? These "neighbors" may be the people next door or they may be the ones in your own backyard. Often we may not have taken time to notice the variety of trees, the tiny wild flowers or the animals that call this place their "neighborhood," too. Jesus noticed many wonders of His Father's creation and through them He taught us lessons about life. Why not take a walk today and see what you notice? What lessons might they have to teach you?

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## **COMMUNITY LUNCH PROGRAM FOR KIDS 2020 BACK2SCHOOL EVENT**

CLPK has scheduled a BACK2SCHOOL celebration for all district children on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at NNCS. At this time we are not sure what this event will look like, but we plan to have at least a modified version of it for the over 200 school age children in the Community Lunch Program for Kids.

At this time we would like to ask anyone with children to hold onto any gently used winter coats, snow pants etc. that your children may have outgrown. We would like to collect them later in the summer and offer them to the children in our program. (There may be some question as to when school will be starting, but we can almost 100% guarantee that winter will arrive on time and we will have children in need of winter coats!) We will let you know of a drop off point in the very near future.

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## **THANK YOU**

Stepping Stones is still collecting returnables and appreciate those who have continued to drop them off at the rectory garage. If you need them picked up please let us know. Keep them coming!

## **PVSR PRAYER LINE – LET US PRAY**

Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer emotionally, spiritually, or physically especially for; *Liz Agen, Leo Bond, and All who have been affected by Covid-19.* If you wish to have someone listed for one month, please contact the Parish office at 315-384-4242. *Anyone from **Our Catholic Parishes** may request to have a person included in the bulletin for prayers. We will adhere to the practice of including a name for one month before removing it. Prayer can always be requested again at any time.*

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### **ST. ANDREW'S PRAYER LINE**

Members of our Parish who would like a member of their family or a close friend put on our Prayer Line are asked to call either Doreen Valade @ 315-212-5729 or Ann Miller @ 315-353-2950. Please be sure the person we will be praying for agrees to this before you call. Everything you share with us is kept confidential.

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### **PRAYER DURING CORONAVIRUS**

Mary Immaculate, our Mother and our Patroness, 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 diocese, our nation and our world, for our families and loved ones, the protection of your Maternal mantle from this dreaded virus.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace and healing Presence of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Keep us in the embrace of your arms, Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus our Lord  
AMEN.

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### **CURRENT CAPACITY OF OUR CHURCHES FOR PUBLIC MASSES**

Social Distancing calls for avoiding close contact with anyone outside of one's household. This means avoid being within six feet of others, especially if this proximity lasts 15 minutes or more. Therefore, based on current requirements for social distancing, we are currently limited to the following number of spaces in our churches for weekend Masses: St. Andrew's 60, Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond 54, and St. Patrick's 45. One exception to social distancing in this plan is that members of the same household may sit together in one space of the same pew.

## **THANK YOU, TERRI**

Terri Clemmo has capably served our parishes of St. Andrew's and Visitation-St. Raymond's as our secretary for the past six months. Last month, Terri's daughter had a baby boy; Terri has been asked by her daughter to provide childcare for her new grandson and she has accepted this job offer. We are *very grateful* for Terri's efficient and professional service in our parishes' office. We will miss her joyful presence at the desk and on the phone. Thank you! Good luck, Terri, and God bless you.

We are grateful to Amy Mudry, our former parish secretary, who has kindly agreed to oversee the parish office during this interim period as we begin our search for a new secretary.

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### **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK 2020: June 22-29**

**Beginning June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops celebrates Religious Freedom Week. Join us in promoting religious freedom For the Good of All.**

All people desire to know their Creator. All people have a natural impulse to seek the good and to live in accordance with that good. All people can flourish when they pursue the truth about God and respond to the truth.

Religious freedom means that all people have the space to flourish. Religious freedom is both an American value and an important part of Catholic teaching on human dignity. When we promote religious freedom, we promote the common good and thus strengthen the life of our nation and the community of nations.

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### **RESERVATIONS FOR WEEKEND MASSES**

To ensure we are compliant with the limits imposed by social distancing at our Masses, parishioners must call the parish offices to make a reservation for the Mass they wish to attend. When the limits have been reached for one weekend's Masses, you can then reserve for the following weekend's Masses. To ensure that all parishioners have an opportunity to attend Mass, please plan to make reservations every other week to attend Mass. Please call 315-384-4242 to reserve at either the 4:00pm Mass at St. Andrew's, or the 10:30am Mass at the Church of the Visitation. Call 315-389-5401 to attend the 8:30am Mass at St. Patrick's. Leave your name, Mass you wish to attend, and how many. All persons at risk due to age, a weakened immune system or other health concerns should remain at home for their own safety. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

# Dear Padre,

## Why does the Church oppose stem-cell research, especially when it has the potential to cure illnesses like Parkinson's disease?

**S**tem cells are unspecialized cells with the ability to divide and produce a variety of more specialized cells. Scientists hope that one day they can be coaxed into specific kinds of cells that can cure disease or repair diseased organs.

In its 2008 statement On Embryonic Stem Cell Research, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops noted that there are two kinds of stem cells. Adult stem cells come from umbilical cord blood, adult tissue, and placenta. The bishops say they “can be obtained without harm to the donor and without any ethical problem.”

Embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, are obtained by destroying embryonic human beings in the first days of development. Since harvesting these cells involves the deliberate killing of humans, obtaining or using this kind of cell is immoral. This is why the Church has opposed extending federally funded stem-cell research beyond currently existing cell lines.

Although stem-cell research may hold vast therapeutic potential, it's never permissible to sacrifice a human being for the good of others. The bishops clarify the moral hazards when they say, “The same ethic that justifies taking some lives to help the patient with Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease today can be used to sacrifice that very patient tomorrow, if his or her survival is viewed as disadvantageous to other human beings considered more deserving or productive.”

Catholics should support further research on adult stem cells, which show great promise, and resist efforts to expand research using embryonic cells.

From *Sexuality and Morality: Answers for Modern Catholics*,  
© 2014, Charles E. Bouchard, OP (Liguori Publications)



ELENA PAWLOVICH / SHUTTERSTOCK



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*There is a tendency to justify transgressing all boundaries when experimentation is carried out on living human embryos. We forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development. In the same way, when technology disregards the great ethical principles, it ends up considering any practice whatsoever as licit.*

—LAUDATO SI', MAY 24, 2015

## Calendar

### Monday

JUNE 22

Weekday

2 Kgs 17:5–8,

13–15a, 18

Mt 7:1–5

### Tuesday

JUNE 23

Weekday

2 Kgs 19:9b–11,

14–21, 31–35a, 36

Mt 7:6, 12–14

### Wednesday

JUNE 24

Nativity of

St. John the Baptist

Is 49:1–6

Acts 13:22–26

Lk 1:57–66, 80

### Thursday

JUNE 25

Weekday

2 Kgs 24:8–17

Mt 7:21–29

### Friday

JUNE 26

Weekday

2 Kgs 25:1–12

Mt 8:1–4

### Saturday

JUNE 27

Weekday

Lam 2:2, 10–14,

18–19

Mt 8:5–17

### Sunday

JUNE 28

Thirteenth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:8–11, 14–16a

Rom 6:3–4, 8–11

Mt 10:37–42