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www.ololma.org

**MASSES**  
Daily Mon - Sat: 8:00 AM  
Saturday 4:30PM, Sunday 7:30 & 9:30AM  
Holy Days 8:00 AM, Noon, 5:30 PM  
PENANCE Saturdays 2:30-3:30 PM



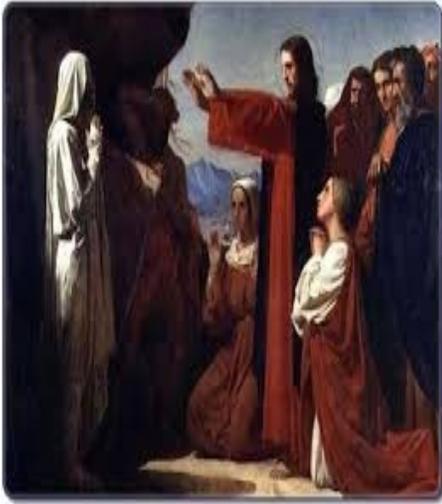
# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Rev. Brian O'Toole  
Pastor  
Cheryl Orrell  
Admin Asst/Bookkeeper  
Rev. Francis J. Roach In Residence  
Mr. William Cotter Maintenance  
Mary Jo Castrale  
Jeremiah's Inn Ministry  
Roland Gauthier Organist  
Mrs. Judy Verdini Religious Ed

### *Mission Statement:*

"Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, disciples of Jesus Christ in Worcester, MA, reaches out with love into the neighborhoods to welcome, serve, support, and engage the community in Jesus. In creating a welcoming relationship with Eucharistic and prayerful celebrations, we gather to make a difference by coming closer to God and one another."

March 29, 2020  
5th Sunday of Lent



### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**29 SUN** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**30 MON** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11

**31 TUE** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

**1 WED** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

**2 THU** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59

**3 FRI** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42

**4 SAT** Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,

I pray that all of you are safe and healthy. It is an understatement to say we are living in unprecedented times. In truth, this Coronavirus pandemic is assaulting the very core of how we believe. Many times I have shared with the community that the fundamental difference between God and Satan is that God is always portrayed in the Bible as the 'gatherer,' calling creation together while Satan, as the 'divider' who scatters the flock. Saying this, I'm not trying to make a theological statement about the Coronavirus or Covid 19 as it is officially known. No, what I am saying is that we, the sons and daughters of the Living God and disciples of Jesus Christ must use the creative gifts God has given us to keep our community together and gathered. With that, I would like to invite you who have access to the online world to join us in opportunities to keep together spiritually our faith community.

I have become aware of a wonderful app called "ZOOM" which you can call up on your computer/tablet or download the app on your Smartphone. ZOOM is a video conferencing device for you to attend meetings or gatherings virtually in the room together. This is a free of charge service and all you have to do is sign up. At certain times, I will send you a 'flocknote' email invitation to "join" the event at a given time and date. I will send you an ID and Password for you to use. Just select "Join the meeting" and put the ID and Password in. You will then be connected and if you are using a computer/laptop/tablet you will actually see the others in the room.

If you haven't been receiving any of my flocknote emails lately, this means you are not registered in flocknote with us. If you would like to join, please send me your name and email address and I'll register you. If you are aware of other people who are not parishioners but you think would like to be part of these events, send me their names and email addresses, provided, of course, they have given permission for themselves to be part of this. Send your request to [brianpotoole2002@gmail.com](mailto:brianpotoole2002@gmail.com).

I realize also, that there are quite a few members of our community that do not have access to the internet. Therefore, such a service would not be available to them. The only thing I can suggest is, if you are aware of any member of your neighborhood who fits this description, please keep in touch with them on the phone and let us know if there is anything we can do to assist them.

Stay tuned for the first of, what I hope, will be a creative way to gather the people of God. God bless you all and again stay safe and healthy while we deal with these challenging times.

Our website is [ololma.org](http://ololma.org)



**STEWARDSHIP OF TIME**

**Kitchen Dedication**

Due to the uncertainty of the next couple of weeks, all plans for the Kitchen dedication will be put on hold. Stay tuned for information as it becomes available.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

**Partners in Charity**

**SCAM:** Please be aware there is a phone scam soliciting for the *Bishops Fund* (name has not been used in years). Please know that the diocese and church does not solicit gifts of support for *Partners in Charity* over the phone; gifts are solicited by mail, online, or through the parish.

**Please be aware that there are people who prey on other people in times of stress and anxiety. Please be cautious of phone calls and people coming to your door. Do not let anyone in you do not know and never give out personal information over the phone.**

**Environmental Stewardship**

**5th Week of Lent**

**Did You Know:**

**To Do:**

**March 30**

-The carbon emissions from a F150 pickup are more than 3 times the emissions from a Prius hybrid.

-Drive in the most efficient car available. Carpooling lowers emissions particularly for longer trips. Use mass transit when available.

**March 31**

-"Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy." (Psalm 96:12)

-Get creative about wrapping gifts: newspaper comics, old maps, reused wrapping paper, etc. Then recycle this wrapping!

**April 1**

-Trees are the lungs of planet Earth. One tree can filter 60 pound of pollutants from our air each year. Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees.

-Plant a tree with your family. Plant a tree every year and make a forest!

**April 2**

-We all need to reduce water use during recurring droughts. Brushing your teeth with water running wastes up to 5 gallons.

-Turn water off while brushing and only keep the water on while rinsing a toothbrush.

**April 3**

-Pope Francis says "The issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle."

-Examine your lifestyle and discuss as a family. Identify one significant change you can make for the common good.

**April 4**

-Cars and trucks account for 25% of carbon dioxide emissions, which scientists

-Walk or ride your bike when running errands close by- you'll enjoy the time outside!

**Palm Sunday**

Next Sunday, April 4th, is Palm Sunday. Blessed palms will be available after the ZOOM Passion Sunday Liturgy at 9 AM. The palms will be in the front vestibule at 10AM for all who would like.

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

<b>Sunday Offertory 3/21-3/22</b>	<b>\$ 890.00</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>30.00</b>
<b>Catholic Relief Services</b>	<b>20.00</b>

*Thank you for your generous support!*

**Sunday Offertory**

With the social distancing restrictions set and the uncertainty of what the future holds, we ask you to please continue to donate to the Sunday Offertory of our church so that we may continue to pay our operating expenses. You can do so by either going to our website and making your offertory through online giving or dropping off or mailing in your envelopes. We appreciate your efforts!

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**LITURGY OF THE WORD      CYCLE A**



Begin with the sign of the cross,

**In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

Then say,

**May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with me**

Reflect on your prior week and examine those times in which you did not live up to the call of the faith and then say:

**PENITENTIAL RITE**



I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done  
and in what I have failed to do,  
    through my fault,  
    through my fault,  
    through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary  
ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**CONFITEOR**



**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

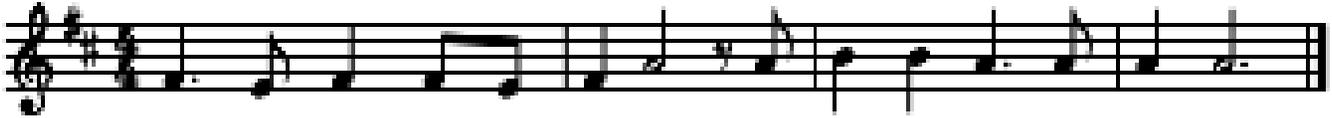
**EZEKIEL 37:12-14**

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

## Reflection & Question on Reading 1

God called Ezekiel to prophesy when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, invaded Jerusalem and deported Israelites from their homeland, making them live in Babylon. The terrible events surrounding the Babylonian Exile crushed the hope and faith of God's people. Ezekiel has a vision of God's people as scattered bones (37:1f). God vows that one day he will raise the people up, reunify them, and restore them to their homeland.

- ◆ We live in an unprecedented time when a pandemic is changing how we live our lives. Where do you find hope; lifting you out of panic?



**R. With the Lord there is mer-cy and full-ness of re-demp-tion.**

## SECOND READING

## ROMANS 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

## Reflection & Question on Reading 2

St. Paul regarded the Spirit as the factor which differentiated people from one another. Living in, or according to the Spirit, meant that a person was open to communion with God, and oriented toward God's will. Living in, or according to the flesh, meant that the person chose self-centeredness over God-centeredness and self-sufficiency over grace.

- ◆ How has the Spirit of the Living God shown itself in your life? What difference has it made and where has the "flesh" spoke louder than the "Spirit"?

## GOSPEL

## JOHN 11:1-45

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and

Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

## Reflection & Question on the Gospel

The raising of Lazarus is the last and greatest sign that Jesus works before his crucifixion and resurrection. The one who is living water (Jn 4), bread of life (Jn 6), and light of the world (Jn 9) here restores physical life, thus revealing in the clearest, most unmistakable way yet that he is eternal life for all who believe. *Returning to Jerusalem* (vv. 1-16) Toward the end of John 10 people tried to arrest Jesus while he was in Jerusalem. By returning there, Jesus knowingly faces death. Ironically, by bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus provokes his enemies to put him, the life-giver, to death (11:46f). Thomas doesn't yet understand that Jesus offers eternal life, but he believes enough to follow Jesus into death (v.16). *Glorifying God* (v. 4) Jesus loves Lazarus, but he doesn't hurry to his friend because he wants to glorify his Father. After Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, more people will believe that Jesus is God's Son, sent by God to offer eternal life to all who believe in him (vv.4,45). This is the work Jesus has come to do, and it's more important than sparing his friends a time of grief (vv.5-6). *Day vs. night* (vv. 9-10) Those who walk during the day are people who live in the light, which is Jesus. Those who reject this light stumble about in the darkness of the night. These people remain subject to sin and death. *Meeting the mourners* (vv. 20-40) Jesus breaks the power of sin and evil while bringing people to a clearer understanding of who he is. Martha believes Jesus is Lord, Messiah, and even Son of God, but she thinks Jesus will bring people to new life at some point in the future; she doesn't yet understand that Jesus brings people into eternal life right now. Mary as well as some of the Jews who've come to console Mary and Martha think similarly. *Waking Lazarus* (vv. 41-44) Jesus received life and power from his Father and obeys God in everything. Therefore, Jesus only has to thank his Father for the work entrusted to him; he doesn't have to ask for anything. Because Jesus perfectly obeys his Father, he knows God will do whatever he asks. Lazarus is wrapped in burial cloths. Jesus will also be wrapped in such cloths after his crucifixion. Lazarus, however, needs help to become free from them. Jesus needs no such help because he has power over sin and death (Jn 20:6-7)

- ♦ "Untie him, and let him go," were the words of Jesus to the attendants of the resuscitated Lazarus. What binds you, physically, emotionally, morally and spiritually? What do you need to be free of?

## **APOSTLES CREED** (Stand)



**I** believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I** believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.

**A**men.

## **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

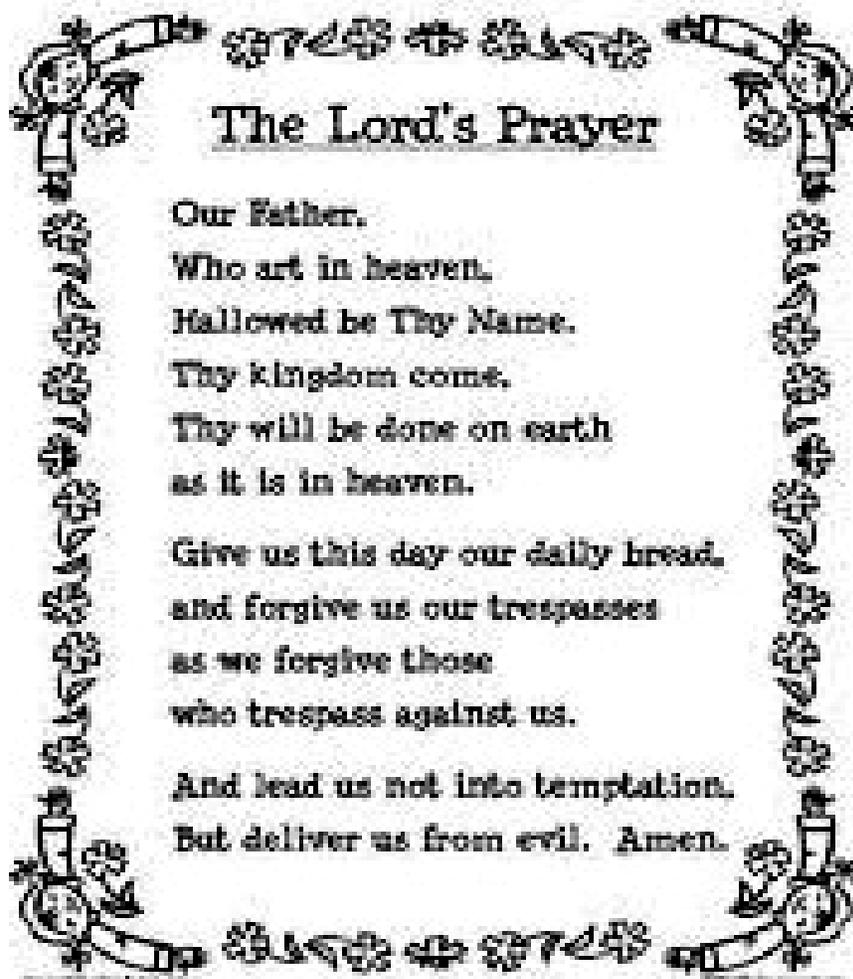
### **Prayer In Time of Pandemic & Prayer For The Earth**

**G**od, whose Only Begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation, hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial. Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of your Son: Be not afraid, for I am with you always. Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants; give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour, that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church, delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Add your personal intentions here.**

**A**ll-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

## Lord's Prayer



## CONCLUDING PRAYER

By your help, we beseech you, Lord, our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which,  
out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.