

Newsletter

Uptown Canticle by Father Michael

What does it mean to live one day at a time as we recover from the Covid-19, Coronavirus? “Live one day at time” is a phrase attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous. The phrase is not just a common encouragement, it holds great meaning representing the gratitude an individual feels about their sobriety, and the importance of it presently. Exploring this common addiction recovery phrase and the importance of carrying it out during this pandemic can help us to live each day as they come so that we may remain calm and grateful.

In my homily on Thursday, March 27, I offered few suggestions for living one day at a time as we struggle through the Coronavirus crisis. Focus each day on something to be grateful for: that we have roofs over our heads and the care and resources to weather this unprecedented crisis. Use this unexpected time we have at home to reconnect with those we love, to struggle together to make it through this. Be the mercy of God for someone who is having a particularly hard time right now. Check in on the elderly neighbor or someone who is alone. Offer to make groceries for them. Lend a helping hand to a young family who could use a break. Put your own talents and skills to work to bring some moment of joy and delight to another.

In these days when many people are feeling isolated, stay connected even virtually. We want to stay connected to you, our parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi. Since we cannot share in face-to-face encounters, let us use the gift of technology. Because of Governor Edward’s stay-at-home mandate our parish office is closed. If someone is in need of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick because of a grave illness, please contact me personally on my cell phone at 504-884-9422. I am also available for the sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) by calling the same number.

If you have access to a computer and the Internet, I will continue to live stream daily mass from the chapel in the parish center on Monday – Friday at 9:00 am and Sunday at 9:30 am. Having to fast from reception of Holy Communion during this Lenten season, allow your involuntary fast from the reception of Holy Communion to deepen your hunger for the Real Presence of Christ in your spiritual diet. Develop the habit of making a spiritual communion as you view the live stream of the celebration of the Eucharist. St. Thomas Aquinas once defined a Spiritual Communion as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament [in Communion at Mass] and in lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him.” You may want to use this prayer composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori in the 19th century:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now 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. Amen.

You can view mass on our parish Facebook page [Facebook.com/sfauptown](https://www.facebook.com/sfauptown). If you do not have a Facebook account, you will be prompted to log in, create an account, or NOT NOW. If you do not want to create a Facebook account, please click “Not Now” and you will still have the opportunity to watch Mass. .

The “living one day at time” phrase applies to our planning for the observance of Holy Week. Archbishop Aymond has sent the priests of the archdiocese special guidelines from the Vatican for the celebration of Passion (Palm) Sunday and the Sacred Triduum. The daily progression of the Coronavirus will determine the logistics of how we will celebrate the Paschal Feast and who will be invited/included. We will give priority to the family members of those who are preparing for Baptism and Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church.

Our church remains open daily for visits to the Blessed Sacrament from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Let us implore the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor to hasten to help us and our patron St. Francis of Assisi to make us instruments of the Lord’s peace.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

CHURCH SUPPORT

Since all public Masses have been suspended, we have no source of income via the normal Sunday collections. Please consider supporting the Church during this time so that we can continue to provide ministry at St. Francis of Assisi, pay our employees, and pay our bills. We realize that many people are in difficult financial situations. We are grateful for any support you can offer.

Online Giving allows you to donate to our general collection while providing you the autonomy to change and alter your donation at any giving. Donations can be scheduled as a one-time gift or a recurring gift.

Go to our website: www.stfrancisuptown.com
Click: E-giving. If you need assistance with online giving, contact Matt in our office.

Praying the Rosary

Missy Duncan is leading us in praying the rosary Monday - Saturday at 9:30 am via a meeting on Zoom.

Anyone can join. To get Zoom:

1. Go to Zoom.com.
2. Create an account. (free)
3. At 9:30 AM log onto your Zoom account and click "Join Meeting"
4. The meeting ID is 527 214 055

If anyone would like to test it before the meeting goes live, or to have support setting it up please call Melisa Rey at 504.227.3766.

Prayer Intentions

Please remember the following parishioners and friends in your prayers: Jerry Abdo, Anne Atkinson, Ann Babington, Barbara Barrosse, Christopher Brewster, Antoinette Clark, Marvette Clark, Cathy Dermady, Rosita Duplantier, Margaret Fanning, Mildred Flynn, Tamberly Gray, Ryan Hartley, Sherry Heller, Juanita Herndon, Pat Jones, Leona Labat, Meredith Landry, William Robert Little, Robert Maddox, Cheryl Ann McDonald, Craig Melancon, Darnell Menasco, Lynn Middleton, John "Junior" Morreale, Joy Morton, Angelle Pecoraro, Paige Peterson, Melissa Phelps, Steven Philburn, Nedine Rende, Betty Richburg, Nell Ricker, Fred Riggle, Patricia Riggle, Justin Roy, Emma Ryan, Linda Sayegh, Robert Schwab, Louis Scott, Sr., Samantha Smith, Sara Surgi, Deacon Wil Toups, Residents of Hainkel, Covenant and Poydras Homes.

O heavenly Father, You sent Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every infirmity and to deliver us from death. We pray that You heal Your servants from our parish family, friends, and relatives of every spiritual and bodily ill which afflicts them. Amen.

Our **Prayer Intentions** list is for anyone who needs prayers especially due to illness. If you would like to add anyone or if you wish to remove anyone from the list, please contact the parish office (504) 891-4479.



Mass Intentions



SUNDAY, March 29 - 9:30am - Parishioners
MONDAY, March 30 - In Thanksgiving to Our Lady Queen of the Holy Rosary
TUESDAY, March 31 - Claire McQueeney
WEDNESDAY, April 1 - All Souls Book of Remembrance
THURSDAY, April 2 - Ethel Hyde Strack Thompson
FRIDAY, April 3 - Ethel Hyde Strack Thompson

Mass Intentions will be rescheduled for this week's Saturday Vigil and Sunday (multiple intentions). Father Michael will live stream the celebration of Mass from the chapel in the parish center for our Facebook page, facebook.com/sfauptown.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 29th - April 4th

Sunday Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8;
Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or Dn 13:41c-62; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21;
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday Dn 3:14-20, 91-92. 95; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7;
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13;
Jn 11:45-56

Mothers Prayers - Virtually

Join us in weekly prayer for our children/grandchildren
For more information contact Melisa Rey 504.227.3766 or familylife@stfrancisuptown.com

Adult Confirmation

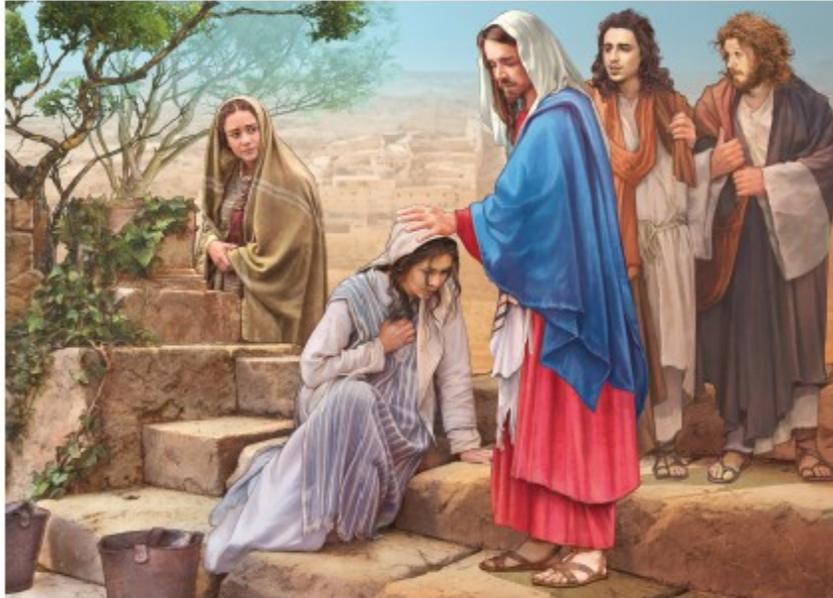
The sacrament of Confirmation for adults is celebrated each year on Pentecost Sunday at the St. Louis Cathedral. If you are over 18, have received the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, and wish to be confirmed, please contact the Parish Office. Adult Confirmation classes will begin April 22 and meet for six weeks (online if need be). For more information, please contact the Christi Schott at (504) 891-4479 or cschott@stfrancisuptown.com.



Church Sanctuary Lamp

Our Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of
Robert McIntyre

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Unbind Us

Father of life, Lord of the living,
just as your Son called Lazarus forth from
the tomb,

so he commands us to step away from all
that binds us.

Revive our sense of evil
so that we will confess the ways
we are wrapped up in sin.

Liberate us from ignorance and apathy,
and enliven our desire for justice, healing,
and peace.

Send us forth to proclaim your saving power
to all who are entombed.

Free us from the death-dealing power of sin
so that we may bear witness to your Spirit
dwelling within us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 29, 2020

From the Grave



Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45. At the time of Ezekiel, God's people did not believe in an afterlife. Ezekiel's prophecy would have given some people hope in a future beyond the grave, but others would have struggled to believe. At the time of Jesus, even those who had come to believe in the resurrection of the dead thought God would raise the just all at once and as part of completing his reign.

By raising Lazarus, Jesus reveals God's life-saving presence had already become active in a new, though unexpected way. The spirit of God that sustains all creation, that gave life to the first human being and filled prophets like Ezekiel, flowed outward from Jesus to free people from sin

and death. All who embrace Jesus as the resurrection and the life encounter God's life-saving and life-changing Spirit.

The gift of God's Spirit, however, is not only a promise that God will one day open our graves and breathe life into us again. Our new lives in the Spirit begin now. We participate in the life-giving power of God whenever we work to free those who are trapped, bound, entombed: victims of domestic violence, refugees, the chronically ill, the homebound, the unborn. By standing with them, by standing for life, we reveal the continuing action of the Spirit. God opens graves and raises people to new life, not only in the future but today.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 30 In Our Hands

In the reading from Daniel, Susanna's life is at risk when all are tricked into turning against her. An injustice is almost committed. The woman in the Gospel passage who is caught by the religious elders seems guilty, but we sense another injustice: the woman seems more like a pawn to be used against Jesus than someone deserving of deadly punishment. Both passages warn us against making hasty judgments. The next time you disagree with someone, ask questions that help you understand that person's point of view. *Today's Readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11.*

Tuesday, March 31 From Above

God does not merely oppose sin and death, he subverts it. When the Israelites repent of their ingratitude, God turns the object of their punishment into an instrument of healing. Centuries later, Jesus turns the cross, an instrument of death and a symbol of Roman power, into the means of salvation and freedom. Most of all, by dying, Jesus turns death into life. Spend some time today reverencing a crucifix. *Today's Readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; John 8:21-30.*

Wednesday, April 1 The Living Truth

When the king orders the three men thrown into the furnace, the men enter the fire knowing that their allegiance is to the God of Israel and no one else. By embracing that truth, the men are saved from a fiery death. Because Jesus is the Son of God, those who believe in him, who embrace who he is, will be saved from death forever. Pray with Daniel 3:52-90 or write your own hymn of praise. *Today's Readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.*

Thursday, April 2 Unlikely as It Sounds

God's extraordinary promises to Abraham seemed laughable. When Sarah gave birth to Isaac, however, Abraham and Sarah would have laughed for joy. In the Gospel reading, the response is far more serious when Jesus speaks of what God will do. In both cases, people struggle to believe God's word. What God says frequently astounds and challenges us. How has God astounded or challenged you this Lenten season? *Today's Readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.*

Friday, April 3 Blasphemous Works

Although we think of Jesus as an innocent victim, his opponents followed the law when charging him with blasphemy: Jesus claimed a relationship with God that surpassed all others. In response to his opponents, Jesus asks that they examine his ministry to see if his works conform to the will of God. Jeremiah, likewise, expressed his confidence that he had faithfully answered God's call. What do your works say about you? *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.*

Saturday, April 4 Dwelling

In Ezekiel's prophecy, God declares that he will gather all his people displaced by war, ensure their security, and dwell with them forever. In Jesus, however, God comes to his people before they and the land are ready. The people are divided and a foreign nation occupies their land. God often comes to us when we are unprepared, but perhaps that is the very reason God arrives. Without God's guidance, we would never be ready for God to dwell with us. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, confess the ways you are unprepared for God. *Today's Readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*

