

# CHURCH OF SAINT AIDAN

March 29, 2020



**Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,  
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.  
We fly to you today as your beloved children.  
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 nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.**

**For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace  
of healing and deliverance.**

**Hear the cries of those  
who are vulnerable and fearful,  
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.**

**In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love one another  
and to be patient and kind.**

**Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land  
and to our hearts.**

**We come to you with confidence,  
knowing that you truly are  
our compassionate mother,  
health of the sick and cause of our joy.  
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know  
the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

*U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB,  
Archbishop José H. Gomez.*

**505 Willis Ave.  
Williston Park  
New York 11596-1727**

516-746-6585  
516-404-2746 (Cell)  
516-746-6055 (Fax)

**Rectory Office Closed**

www.staidanparish.org  
lynnp@staidanparish.org

**Pastor**  
Rev. Adrian McHugh

**Associate Pastors**  
Rev. Ken Grooms  
Rev. Solomon Odinukwe

**In Residence**  
Rev. Edward Sheridan

**Deacons**  
Rev. Salvatore B. Villani  
Rev. Rudy Martin ext. 411

**St. Aidan School**  
ext. 202, 203 Grades Nursery-2  
ext. 302, 303 Grades 3-8  
Principal  
Mrs. Julie O'Connell  
Assistant Principal  
Ms. Barbara Graham

**Faith Formation**  
ext. 404, 405  
Director ext. 406  
Mrs. Elaine Smith,

**Youth Ministry**  
Coordinator ext. 403  
Mr. Stephen Loewenthal

**Music Director**  
Mr. Drago Bubalo ext. 130  
bdrago@staidanparish.org

**Social Ministry, Director**  
Ms. Rosemarie Cavallaro  
ext. 410, 408

**Buildings & Grounds** ext. 107

We invite  
everyone to  
walk with  
Jesus  
and  
experience  
His  
healing  
power and  
love



**THE RECTORY OFFICE IS CLOSED**

**TO LEAVE A PHONE MESSAGE  
CALL 516-746-6585**

**TO TALK TO A PRIEST  
CALL 516-404-2746**

Daily Mass from St. Aidan can be viewed on staidanparish.org. A video message for the children of St. Aidan Parish and School can be found under the 'Video' button.

#### **CHURCH**

St. Aidan Church will remain open for private prayer from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. You may enter by the door at the St. Francis garden or the door for the disabled. Please maintain the proper precautions regarding distancing and do not congregate in groups of people.

#### **PARISH EMAIL**

If you wish to be added to email distributions of the Parish Bulletin and other messages, please email Bonnie

Parente at bparente@verizon.net. She will manually add you to receive emails from our Parish through our email server Constant Contact.

#### **ALL LITURGIES ARE SUSPENDED**

No further liturgies are permitted at the Church of St. Aidan until further notice. This includes funerals, weddings, baptisms, and any other cause for gathering people together in the Church, other than private prayer. Emergency sacraments are permitted, as always, but while exercising the proper health precautions. Burial services may be offered if possible, while observing all safe distance precautions, and should be done at the grave site. Wake services should no longer be conducted. Both wakes and funeral (memorial) Masses can be postponed. Confessions will not be advertised or scheduled. However, Confession can be conducted when urgently needed and when requested on a case-by-case basis. Please

**FIFTH WEEK OF LENT  
MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED IN PRIVATE  
BY THE PRIESTS**

**MONDAY, MARCH 30**

Fr. Ed 6:30 AM  
Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM  
Fr. Solomon 12:30 PM  
Fr. Solomon 5:30 PM

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

Elizabeth Park (Anniversary Rem.)  
Loretta & Patrick DeMaio & Clara & William Filippini  
Lv. Ints. of Maria & Phil Piscatella & Family  
Matthew Oliveri (19th Anniversary Rem.)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31**

Fr. Solomon 6:30 AM  
Fr. Solomon 9:00 AM  
Fr. Ken 12:30 PM  
Fr. Ken 5:30 PM

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

Leo Hahn  
Maryann O'Hara (Birthday Rem.)  
Janet Moro  
William Mahoney (Birthday Rem.)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1**

Fr. Ed 6:30 AM  
Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM  
Fr. Ken 12:30 PM  
Fr. Ken 5:30 PM

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

Leo Hahn  
Julia Daly (Birthday Rem.)  
Lv. Ints. of Anthony Iafrate  
Anthony Ameruso (14th Anniversary Rem.)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2**

Fr. Ken 6:30 AM  
Fr. Ken 9:00 AM  
Fr. Adrian 12:30 PM  
  
Fr. Adrian 5:30 PM

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

Virginia Bradley  
Lv. Ints. of Betty Gaffney & Family  
Lv. Ints. of Sister Francis Daniel Kammer  
(Birthday Rem.)  
Elizabeth Smith (1st Anniversary Rem.)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 3**

Fr. Adrian 6:30 AM  
Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM  
Fr. Solomon 12:30 PM  
Fr. Solomon 5:30 PM

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

Lv. Ints of Daniel Walker  
Parishioners of St. Aidan  
Marjorie Emken (Birthday Rem.)  
Peter Chun (Anniversary Rem.)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

Fr. Adrian 9:00 AM  
Fr. Solomon 5:00 PM  
  
  
  
Fr. Ken 7:30 PM

**LENTEN WEEKDAY**

Alice Gallagher  
Mbrs. of the Legion of Mary  
Lisa Jean Margaritis  
Anthony Ameruso (Birthday Rem.)  
Mary Ann Talipan  
Mary Zambuto (8th Anniversary Rem.)  
Andrew & Janet Boyle (50th Wedding Anniversary)  
Parishioners of St. Aidan

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

Fr. Ken 7:30 AM  
Fr. Ed 9:00 AM  
Fr. Adrian 10:30 AM  
Fr. Solomon 12:00 PM  
  
  
Fr. Adrian 5:30 PM

**PALM SUNDAY**

Deacon Frank Love (Birthday Rem.)  
Deceased Rosarian-Patricia Tomasone  
Tom Stalters  
James O'Hara  
Antonio Machado  
Ruth M. Daliendo  
Thomas Rosario, Jr.  
Lv. Ints. of Maria Stern  
Sister Ellen Lyons (9th Anniversary Rem.)

**Father,  
I thank  
you for  
hearing  
me**



**I know  
that you  
always  
hear me**



## *What's Pastor Thinking*

'I can't tell you how much I miss St. Aidan,' a parishioner said to me.

'Never thought I would miss Mass so much.' St. Aidan is a eucharistic community and our faith is nurtured and nourished at Mass. Mass is our acknowledgement that we are not in ultimate control of our lives or of our world. We cannot survive and thrive without Mass. That is so clear at this time. Mass is at the heart of the rhythm of life at St. Aidan. The present crisis will not disturb that rhythm. Mass will continue to be celebrated, day by day, and prayer at the Church of St. Aidan will continue day by day.

What has changed is the manner of our participation in the celebration of the Mass. In response to the pandemic and the official guidance, which we must follow, public participation in the celebration of the Mass is not, for now, possible. This is a sacrifice we have to make. It is not easy, for any Catholic, but it is what we must do. The teaching of the Church is that, in these circumstances, the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days no longer applies. Please have no doubt about this.

This does not mean that we lose our love of the Mass or our desire to take part in the celebration

of the Mass. Mass will be celebrated, day by day, at the Church of St. Aidan. There are many ways of taking part in this prayer. We have worked hard to help you have access to watch Mass online. Go to our parish website — [staidanparish.org](http://staidanparish.org) — for a daily streaming. Associate yourself with the celebration of the Mass spiritually. Read the Scriptures of the day. Use some of the materials that are available to be close in your heart. Learn again the practice of spiritual communion. The prayer of spiritual communion is printed in this bulletin.

There are many ways in which we can deepen our participation in the Mass and our life of prayer in these strange and stressful days. Indeed, they are an opportunity for us to do so.

In a few weeks we can return to the Mass with fresh love and enthusiasm when, again, it is possible for us to do so, in bigger numbers than ever. We know that this time of crisis is not going to be brief. We are involved in a lengthy battle. We encourage each other. We pray for each other. Together we turn to Mary for her special protection, and we offer ourselves and our country to her, as our gift, and seeking her protection.

**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. 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. Amen.

**WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Jill Ohl  
 Lily O'Rourke  
 John Joseph Mulrooney  
 Steve Pomticello  
 Kay Perro  
 Mark Cristello  
 Richard Pearles  
 Maryann Katkowsky  
 Sean Anderson  
 Francesca Cacavale  
 Thomas Yorke  
 Helen Bondurant  
 Ashley Lyons  
 Judy Kostovick  
 Jack Groothuis  
 Sharon Devis  
 Agnes Chun  
 Blaise DeCario Webber  
 Virginia Fallon  
 Virgini Bradley  
 Sue Fleming  
 Kathleen Donnelly  
 Frank Keenan  
 Isabella Mueller  
 Eileen Fitzgerald

**WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED**

Virginia Bradley

**2021 MASS BOOK**

The 2021 Mass book was NOT opened on March 28. The date will be announced later.

**LOCKDOWN: A POEM BY BROTHER RICHARD HENDRICK, O.F.M. CAP.**

Yes there is fear.  
 Yes there is isolation.  
 Yes there is panic buying.  
 Yes there is sickness.  
 Yes there is even death.  
 But,  
 They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
 You can hear the birds again.  
 They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
 The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
 But blue and grey and clear.  
 They say that in the streets of Assisi  
 People are singing to each other across the empty squares,  
 keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.  
 They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
 Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
 Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number  
 through the neighbourhood  
 So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
 Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
 are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
 All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
 All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way  
 All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
 To how big we really are.  
 To how little control we really have.  
 To what really matters.  
 To Love.  
 So we pray and we remember that  
 Yes there is fear.  
 But there does not have to be hate.  
 Yes there is isolation.  
 But there does not have to be loneliness.  
 Yes there is panic buying.  
 But there does not have to be meanness.  
 Yes there is sickness.  
 But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
 Yes there is even death.  
 But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
 Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
 Today, breathe.  
 Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
 The birds are singing again  
 The sky is clearing,  
 Spring is coming,  
 And we are always encompassed by Love.  
 Open the windows of your soul  
 And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,  
 Sing.

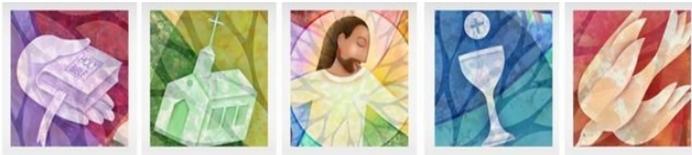


# Stewardship

*a way of life*

Our parish is experiencing a severe cash flow problem right now but we are managing the situation. Please remember, even though our church is quiet, facility utilities do not go away. Needs of our community, social ministry, and families still remain as well. We can not meet such needs without your help. As we are not able to serve in large groups or in person, our gifts of prayer and treasure are ever so important, even crucial to get us through this difficult time. Currently 75 parishioners are donating online. If you haven't already, please consider setting up a recurring gift online. Please visit our website [staidanparish.org](http://staidanparish.org) and press the 'Donate' button. You can also continue to mail your gifts and envelopes to the rectory.

Thank you. Fr. Adrian



## Faith Formation

Religious Education classes were scheduled to end on April 2nd. Therefore, classes will not resume until September.

Grades 7 and 8 Parents: I will continue to monitor the circumstances and will make any adaptations necessary regarding Confirmation preparations. You will receive updates as more information is available.

First Communion Parents: Please continue to work with your children about receiving Holy Communion. You can refer to the materials that were provided at the First Communion Parents

meetings. You will receive updates as information is available.

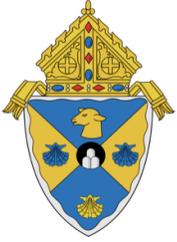
During this time when the children are missing classes and we cannot come together for Holy Mass, the following websites may be helpful: Google USCCB (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops) provides the Scripture readings for Mass, catholicmom.com has many of the Mass worksheets made available to the children at the Family Mass, loyolapress.com and sadlierreligion.com have some family activities and informative articles.

Family Mass: The Family Mass was journeying through Lent by having a special Word of the Week. This week the Gospel story is about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. (John 11:1-45) The Word of the Week is BELIEVE. Here are some ideas about incorporating BELIEVE into your activities during the week: wear a cross or medal to show you believe in Jesus; do an act of kindness for Jesus; place a religious decoration outside of your house to show your family believes in Jesus; say a prayer before dinner; be bold and share your faith with a friend; make cards for others that share your belief in Jesus.

These are challenging days for all of us. Let us pray for one another. Remember, "With God, all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26). Prayer changes things, Elaine Smith



In light of the impending health crisis affecting our community the Social Ministry office would like to provide help to the elderly, home bound, the immuno suppressed and anyone in need of food or non-perishable supplies. Please contact the rectory at 516-746-6585 or our parish cell 516-404-2746. Thank, Ro Cavallaro



# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* ROCKVILLE CENTRE

1. Public Liturgies. It was announced that as of Sunday, March 22 at 8:00 PM, in compliance with the Executive Order of the Governor of New York State, no further public liturgies are permitted until further notice. This includes funerals, weddings, baptisms, and any other cause for gathering people together in the church, other than private prayer.
2. Emergency sacraments are permitted, as always, but while exercising the proper health precautions. Burial services may be offered if possible, while observing all safe distance precautions, and should be done at the grave site. Wake services should no longer be conducted. Both wakes and funeral (memorial) Masses can be postponed.
3. Private Masses and live streamed or recorded Masses /devotions are still permitted. Pastors can have a very small group of assistants for filming if necessary, but maintaining the proper precautions.
4. Churches. Following instructions from the office of the Governor, churches can remain open for private prayer, while maintaining the proper precautions regarding distancing and groups of people congregating. However, no public liturgies are permitted.
5. Because the Governor is permitting churches to remain open for private prayer, we are also permitted to have maintenance personnel keeping the churches clean. However, we realize that this may not be possible in every parish for various reasons. It is up to the prudent judgment of the pastors to assess the particular circumstances for their parish and make appropriate decisions.
6. Pastors are encouraged that if at all possible, to keep churches open for prayer. Together, we are all suffering spiritual deprivations. Access to prayer in the churches, especially in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament, is so deeply needed at this time.
7. Only essential personnel for essential operations as defined in the Governor's executive order are permitted to work on premises. This may include outreach personnel. However, proper precautions must be observed. All others must work from home. These prudential judgments must be made by pastors.
8. Distribution of Palms for Palm Sunday. Pastors should not plan to distribute Palms or make them available at this time. Palms will be blessed in parish churches on Palm Sunday and will be made available to the faithful at a later date.
9. Confession. Confessions may not be advertised or scheduled. However, confession can be conducted when urgently needed and when requested on a case-by-case basis. Please observe the safety precautions outlined in previous memos.
10. Spiritual Communion. The Faithful are encouraged to unite themselves to the Lord Jesus and to each other in "Spiritual Communion," which is part of the rich history of the Church's teachings. When the Faithful cannot access the Sacraments, especially the Body and Blood of Christ present in the Eucharist, they purify their hearts and ask God to allow them to be united with Him spiritually.

## What's Happening at St. Aidan School!



Mrs. McAward's 5th grade Religion class finished learning about the Sacrament of Baptism. The students were asked to pretend to perform a Baptism while at home participating in remote learning. They used the signs and symbols they learned about in their Religion class.





**Williston Park**  
 St. Aidan's School  
 525 Willis Avenue  
 Williston Park, New York  
[facebook.com/cruwillistonpark](https://www.facebook.com/cruwillistonpark)

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- Arts & Crafts
- Swimming
- EduCamp
- Gaming
- GaGa
- Go Karts
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 Off your 2020 enrollment  
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 with this flyer.

Sat. May 30, 10 AM - 1 PM

You Are Cordially Invited To Join Fellow St. Aidan Parishioners & Friends at the

**2020**  
**"Monsignor James McDonald Memorial Golf Outing"**  
 In Support of St. Aidan School



**Honoring:**  
**Dick Kearns ('64) and Mo Kearns ('65)**

**Monday, May 4, 2020**  
**Wheatley Hills Golf Club**  
 147 East Williston Ave. (Hillside Avenue),  
 East Williston

**Featuring Lunch, Golf, Drinks & Dinner**  
**\$325 per golfer or \$1,250 per foursome**  
**Many Sponsorships Opportunities Available**

**If you don't play golf, please join us for**  
**Dinner - \$130 per person**

**St. Aidan Parishioners: Please consider a Monsignor McDonald Memorial Sponsorship for \$50 to honor the memory of our beloved former Pastor.**

**St. Aidan Alumni: Please consider an "Alumni Sponsorship" listing your name and graduation year for \$25**

To register or for more information, please visit:  
[SASgolf.givesmart.com](http://SASgolf.givesmart.com)

Or contact Golf Outing Co-Chairs Tony Santos (646-220-0540) or Joseph Galante (516- 410-2600)

or by email at [staidangolf@yahoo.com](mailto:staidangolf@yahoo.com)

**Get your reservations in fast!**  
**The Golf Outing sells out quickly.**

**Thank you for supporting our Parish School!**



# Faith-fully Navigating Coronavirus with Your Kids

BY PAUL CANAVESE & ANN NAFFZIGER

If you're anything like us, the coronavirus situation has thrown you for a big loop. Our daughters are suddenly out of school, organized sports, and other activities. Meanwhile, we are trying to answer their difficult questions, keep our kitchen stocked, and juggle working from home. You may well have greater challenges than us, such as losing work, struggling to find childcare, or dealing with illness yourself.

We certainly don't have all the answers for how to navigate this difficult time, but we do want to share some wisdom and insights that we have received from others, much from our Catholic faith tradition. This is not the first time that people of faith have faced a crisis, and it will not be the last. We need to remember that we have God and each other to sustain us through difficult times.

## A Faith Foundation

A crisis like this one can make both parents and children fearful, confused, and disoriented. The people we meet in the Bible lived almost constantly in crisis—concerned for their survival—so perhaps it's not very surprising that God's most frequent instruction in all of Scripture is not to be afraid. Fear can get our attention and focus us, but it also often leads us astray.

As the coronavirus pandemic unfolded, the two of us have become aware of how our children are looking to us not only for information but for guidance in how to respond and how worried they should be. As usual, our actions speak even louder than our words.

Our faith can keep us on track, even when stress and anxiety pull us in other directions. We trust in a God who cares about everyone and urges us to do the same. We believe in a God who became one of us so he could love us better and understand our own fear and pain. We follow a God who asks us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, even when it is difficult or inconvenient. Our faith guides us to not only look out for ourselves but prioritize the needs of others, especially those most in need.

## What Children Need to Know

It is important to reassure children, address their fears, and communicate what we believe from a faith perspective. Here are some guidelines for how to approach the conversation:

- **Keep it truthful.** Don't mislead your child, pass on rumors, or make promises that you can't keep. Don't tell them that they (or you, or grandma) won't catch COVID-19. Instead, explain that very few kids get bad symptoms, very few people get seriously sick, and that there is medical help for those who do.
- **Keep it age-appropriate.** Share only what is helpful for your child at their developmental level. Going beyond that will confuse them. Just because you are concerned about particular aspects of the crisis doesn't mean that you have to share them with your child.
- **Keep it simple.** In general, let your child guide the conversation with their own questions and concerns. Don't volunteer too much information or try to be comprehensive. Because the crisis is affecting all aspects of life and there is ongoing news, it can be easy to talk about it all the time and throughout family meals, but this can make our children anxious.

An excellent NPR cartoon that you can use to teach your kids the basics about the coronavirus at their level can be found at: <http://bit.ly/coronavirus-kids>.

## Stopping the Spread

It is our responsibility as parents to make sure our children know how to avoid spreading the virus. These steps are essential to keep not only your child safe, but also family members, friends, and those most at risk in your community. Even those without symptoms can spread the virus, including children. Be an example by following these rules yourself, and make sure your children know

the rules are *not optional*:

- **Wash hands vigorously** for at least 20 seconds (suggest that they sing part of a song that they like and not stop until it is finished). Show them how!
- **Avoid touching your face.**
- **Cough or sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue.
- **Stay home if you become ill.**

## Breathing Room

We already tend to jam-pack our schedules with work, parenting, and other responsibilities. The coronavirus just increases the pressure.

Our faith tradition has a check against this called the Sabbath. It's about taking a break, taking time for ourselves, and taking time for God so that we can be spiritually refreshed, physically rested, and emotionally renewed to do the work we need to do. We need breathing room to stay healthy and centered.

There is a lot of new work associated with this crisis—from staying informed to juggling all the changes. We need to do this work well, but we also need breaks from it. If we find ourselves constantly dwelling on the latest news and social media posts, then we may need breaks from them so we won't be completely consumed.

There are many ways to take a Sabbath break. Two important ways to spend this time are attending Sunday Mass and through prayer (which we'll come back to). But you may also need exercise, journaling, walking your dog, or playing music. Maybe it's snuggling and reading with your kids a little more. We need to replenish our spirits during this time so that we can be more present to each other and the movements of the Holy Spirit.

Even our children get over-scheduled in our culture, between school, organized sports, and other extracurricular activities. So this may be a good opportunity to help them embrace and appreciate the unstructured free time. Consider how that can continue after the crisis passes.

## Prayer

If prayer is not a regular part of your routine or that of your family, this is a great time to start! If possible, set aside some quiet time to be with God, and don't forget to spend some of that time listening.

As a family, you might begin your meals with a simple prayer for all those affected by the crisis around the world and in your community. Have everyone at the table say a "Thank You" and a "Pray For," as in "I'm thankful for my kitty/these meatballs/my soccer ball," and "I want to pray for all those who are helping the sick people/Grandma and Grandpa/my friends who are stuck at home too."

## Home Church

Masses and religious education classes have been canceled at many parishes, giving us an additional challenge as people of faith. However, it's just as important (in fact, *more* important) for families to worship on Sundays.

Our tradition calls each family a "domestic church"—sort of like a tiny parish—where we pray, teach the faith, and live it out. Perhaps this time is a blessing in disguise to help us embrace this reality. If you can't go to Mass in-person, here are some alternatives:

- Scripts and instructions for leading a service at home: <http://bit.ly/sunday-liturgy-hours>.
- Multiple suggestions by Fr. James Martin, S.J. at <http://bit.ly/sunday-without-mass>.
- If you have young children, you may need a simpler option. You could begin and end with the Sign of the Cross and perhaps a song your child knows well. Read one or more passages from a story Bible, then talk together about what you read.

Watch for guidelines and tools from your parish leaders on how you can share faith with your children at home.

## Serving Others

It is natural to ask, "Where is God in all of this?" As Matthew 25 reminds us, Christ is present in those who are in need (the hungry, thirsty, stranger, imprisoned, etc.). It is our job to do God's will in the world to make things better. We must always look beyond ourselves to serve our neighbor. Consider as a family how you can reach out to those who are most in need. For example:

- Run errands or shop for neighbors who are staying home because they are most at-risk.
- Call elderly family members, parishioners, or other friends who are isolated and lonely.
- Support small businesses that are struggling with lost business. You may be able to buy gift certificates to give them needed cash now.

*May the Lord bless you and keep you! May the Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!  
May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!*

—Numbers 6:24-26



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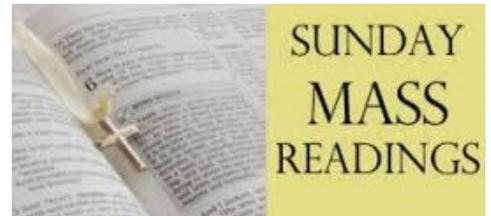
Holy Saturday is a unique day in our liturgical tradition. It often seems to get lost in between the grief of Good Friday and the joy of Easter, which actually starts with the Vigil Mass on Saturday night. Part of this is due to the high emotions of the surrounding days, Good Friday and Easter. It is also at least partly because we look at days differently than did our Jewish forefathers, which changes the relationship between Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. For them, the day ended at sundown. This accounts for Jesus' saying He would rebuild the temple (of His body) in three days, and why we say He was in the tomb for three days. He was buried on Friday – they had to hurry to bury Him before the Sabbath started -- so before sunset, day one. Saturday until sunset was day two. Easter Sunday then started at sundown Holy Saturday, so that is day three, and Jesus rose sometime after sundown and early in the morning when Mary Magdalene first saw Him.

In the early Church, Holy Saturday was known as Great, or Grand, Saturday, Holy Saturday, the Angelic Night, the Vigil of Easter. It is a day of joy and sadness intermingled; it is the close of the season of Lent and penance, and the beginning of Paschal time, which is one of rejoicing. The night of the vigil of Easter has undergone a transformation throughout Church history. The vigil of Easter was especially devoted to the baptism of catechumens who, in the more important churches, were

very numerous, sometimes in the thousands because Baptism was only administered at the vigils of Easter and Pentecost. During the first six or seven centuries, ceremonies were held all night long, so that the Alleluia coincided with the break of day, the traditional moment of the Resurrection. In the eighth century the same ceremonies were held on Saturday afternoon and, strangely enough, were later on conducted on Saturday morning, moving part of Easter up almost a whole day. Over time, sanity prevailed and we now have an almost empty Holy Saturday. The church is bare. Jesus is hidden in the tomb. After Morning Prayer, the only activities are a traditional blessing of food baskets, and the sacrament of Reconciliation. But then the joy of Easter, starting with the Vigil Mass, when we, just as our forefathers, welcome catechumens into full communion with the church. Holy Saturday is over, although it is still a calendar Saturday for us. But what a spectacular transition from Holy Saturday to the Vigil of Easter!

It opens with the blessing of the new fire, the lighting of lamps and candles and of the paschal candle to enlighten a dark church. Night is ended. The darkness of the tomb is dispelled. God says once again: "Let there be light!" The resurrection of Jesus is an eruption of light. Death is conquered, the tomb is thrown open. The Risen One himself is Light, the Light of the world. The desolation of Good Friday, the emptiness of Holy Saturday, are gone. Joy and hope return. We sing Alleluia again. We hear spectacular readings from the Old and New Testaments. We welcome our new Catholics. The Mass and the Consecration are back. Alleluia! Christ

is risen! Go out and proclaim the Good News! Alleluia!



Today's Readings have some spectacular scenes. Often we are so taken in by the details of such scenes that we fail to step back and comprehend their meaning. So take a moment to relax and listen carefully to the message of these readings. The First Reading is from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (37:12-14). At the time of this story, the people of Israel are captives in Babylon, languishing as if they were "dry bones in the desert." Through this vision of the dry bones, God tells the Prophet to announce that He will in time restore the exiled people of Judah. This will not be a return to their former status and shame under the Monarchy, but to a new life governed not by kings and princes but by the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. So, when you feel "down" or depressed, call on the Holy Spirit. He is within all who are baptized and waiting for our call. The Responsorial Psalm (130:1-8) is one of the seven penitential Psalms used in various liturgies. In it, the psalmist begs for God's mercy and forgiveness of his sins. At the same time, this is an instruction to all the People of God to wait patiently in hope for the Lord's redemption. The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:8-11). Paul gives the Romans and all of us an updated teaching similar to that of the Prophet Ezekiel above. "Updated" because this writing comes from a time after Christ's

Resurrection and the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all mankind to guide us back to the Father. If we do not have the Spirit dwelling within us, we will be like those "dry bones in the desert." So "ask and you shall receive!" The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of John (11:1-45). Here we have an extensive teaching by Jesus but it is buried in a long story, one that everyone has heard many times. We are all captivated by the spectacular story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and rightly so. However, this is not the essence of this Gospel message. The real message is Jesus' statement, "I am the resurrection and the life," etc. Through this story and His statement, Jesus is telling all mankind that He is in control of both physical and spiritual life and we only need to have His Holy Spirit dwelling within us, guiding us, to partake of His resurrection. "Do you believe this?" Can you respond with the same answer as Martha did? Throughout the season of Lent we have several vivid stories in the Gospel of John depicting the Gift of Eternal Life through our belief in Jesus: Rebirth in the story of Nicodemus (John 3), Living Water in the story of the Samaritan Woman (John 4), Life Giving Word in the cure of the Centurion's son (John 5), and, most of all, the Bread of Life in (John 6). So, if you missed the point of any of these readings, now would be a good time to go back and get acquainted with the real message behind the story. Something to think about during your prayer time this week!

"We are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-church, between the gospel and the anti-gospel, between Christ and the antichrist." Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope John Paul II, 1976



Five Popes Reflect on the Philosophy of Socialism and Communism: American Heritage Dictionary: "Socialism is any of various theories or systems of social organization in which the means of producing and distributing goods is owned collectively or by a centralized government that often plans and controls the economy." Catholic Social Teaching (catholic.org): "Only persons are made in the image of God... The dignity of man, the concept of personhood, cannot be built upon agnostic or atheistic foundations." Pope John Paul II (1978-2005) "Socialism considers the individual person simply as an element, a molecule within the social organism, so that the good of the individual is completely subordinated to the functioning of the socio-economic mechanism." Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013) "We do not need a State which regulates and controls everything, but a State which ... generously acknowledges and supports initiatives arising from (those)...closest to those in need (government power ought to reside at the local or regional level and least centralized competent authority.)

Pope Paul VI (1963-1978) "Too often Christians attracted by socialism tend to idealize it in terms which are very general: a will for justice, solidarity and equality. They refuse to recognize the limitations

of the historical socialist movements, ..."

Pope John XXIII (1958-1963) "Pope Pius XI emphasized the fundamental opposition between Communism and Christianity, and made it clear that no Catholic could subscribe even to moderate Socialism. The reason is that Socialism is founded on a doctrine of human society which ... takes no account of any objective other than that of material well-being... it places too severe a restraint on human liberty..."

Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) "To remedy these wrongs (in society) the socialists, working on the poor man's envy of the rich, are striving to do away with private property, and contend that individual possessions should become the common property of all, to be administered by the State or by municipal bodies. They hold that by thus transferring property from private individuals to the community, the present mischievous state of things will be set to rights, inasmuch as each citizen will then get his fair share of whatever there is to enjoy. But (if) their contentions ... were carried into effect, the working man himself would be among the first to suffer."

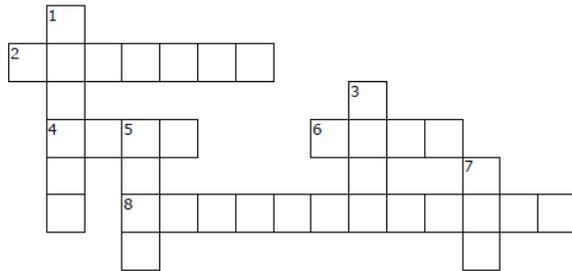
(tfp.org; catholic.org; catholic365.com; dr.taylormarshall.com)

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Jesus Raises Lazarus

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEEPING	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP



ACROSS

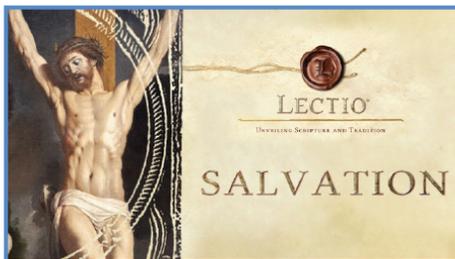
- 2. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
- 4. A place where someone is buried
- 6. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
- 8. Rising from the dead or returning to life

DOWN

- 1. One of Lazarus' two sisters
- 3. To be alive or have life
- 5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
- 7. To stop living

TOMB	MARTHA	DIE	MARY
LIVE	RESURRECTION	LAZARUS	SICK

## FORMED® PICK OF THE WEEK



### Lectio: Salvation with Dr. Michael Barber

At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven “for us men and for our salvation.” But what does “salvation” mean?

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