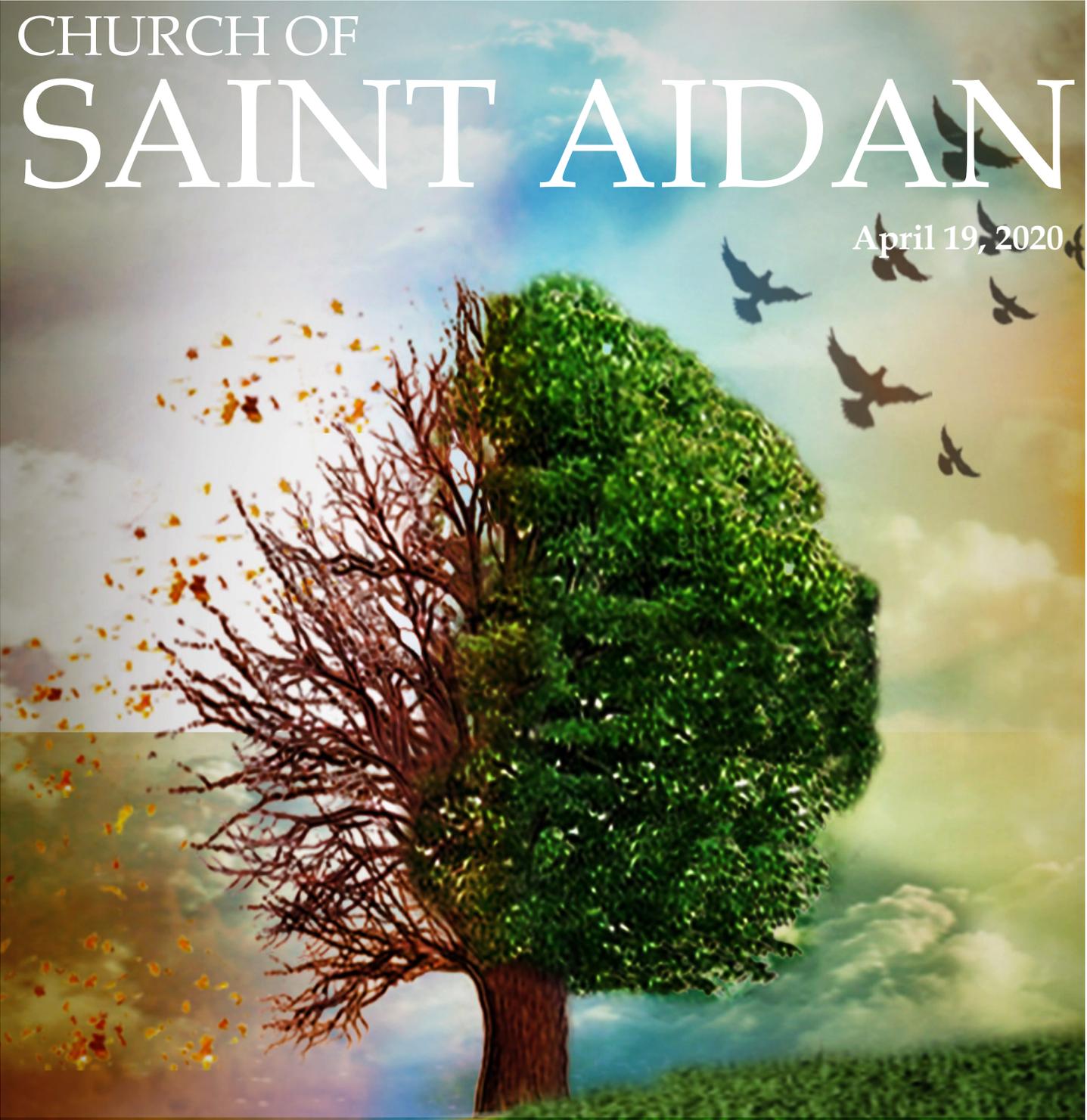


CHURCH OF

SAINT AIDAN

April 19, 2020



AWAKE
FROM DEATH TO LIFE

**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,

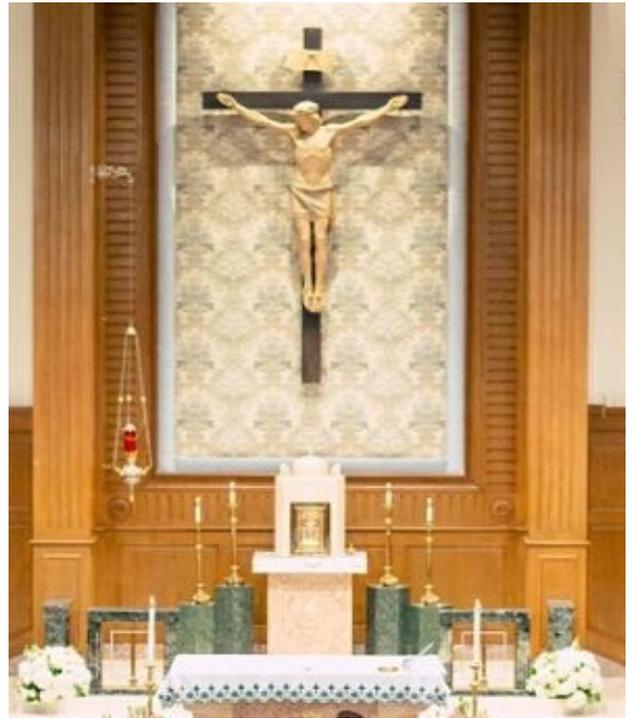
Youth Ministry
Coordinator ext. 403
Mr. Stephen Loewenthal

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

Catholics are hereby dispensed from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Masses are said in private for the intentions listed in the bulletin. Daily Mass from the Church of St. Aidan can be viewed at staidanparish.org and on Facebook.

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 gravesite. 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. Call 516-404-2746. Please observe safety precautions.

CHURCH

St. Aidan Church will remain open for private prayer from 10:00 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.

MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED IN PRIVATE BY THE PRIESTS

MONDAY, APRIL 20

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

EASTER WEEKDAY

Cirino Zapala
Louisa Conte (1st Anniversary Rem.)
Violet Reina (1st Anniversary Rem.)
Lv. Ints. of Sister Francis Dominici Piscatella
(107th Birthday Rem.)

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

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

EASTER WEEKDAY

Paul Costabile (Birthday Rem.)
Lv. Ints. of June O'Hara & Family
Francis Daly (66th Wedding Anniversary Rem.)
Nancy Haskell

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

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

EASTER WEEKDAY

Karen Simonetti
Constantin Koronas (2nd Anniversary Rem.)
Mary Caufield (Birthday Rem.)
Hope Caporale (2nd Anniversary Rem.)

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

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

EASTER WEEKDAY

Marion Burns
William Hannan, Sr. (Anniversary Rem.)
Daniel C. Eckhoff (1st Anniversary Rem.)
Daniel P. Murphy (Birthday Rem.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

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

EASTER WEEKDAY

Maria Magdalena Baeno
James Laverty
Mary DiFazio (Anniversary Rem.)
Edward William Blatz, Jr. (4th Anniversary Rem.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Fr. Ken 9:00 AM
Fr. Solomon 5:00 PM

ST. MARK, EVANGELIST

Joseph Maggiulli
Lisa Margaritis
Patricia Tennis (20th Anniversary Rem.)
Salvatore Riggio
Edward H. Wilenski (Birthday Rem.)
Vincent Pino
Agostino DiBenedetto
Pasquale (Pat) Dechiaro

Fr. Ken 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Parishioners of St. Aidan
James Grundman (1st Anniversary Rem.)
Ester Arnoldo (Anniversary Rem.)
Joseph Salvaggio, III
John Lobato, Sr. (Anniversary Rem.)
Maximillian Daliendo (Birthday Rem.)
Anthony Bonaguro (Anniversary Rem.)
Lengiewicz & Kozlowski Families
Matthew Roshan (1st Anniversary Rem.)

Fr. Adrian 5:00 PM

**Awake
from
your
slumber**

**Arise
from
your
sleep**

**A new
day is
dawning**



What's Pastor Thinking

The disciple Thomas has been portrayed in a negative light as 'Thomas the Doubter.' But honestly, who of us in our present situation does not have doubts?

There is so much we don't know about the COVID-19 pandemic. We don't know when cases in the US will peak or how long they will last afterward. We don't know if surviving a COVID-19 infection means we gain long-lasting immunity or if we can become re-infected. We don't know if the virus will be affected by warmer temperatures in the summer, or, if it is, whether we will see a second onslaught of infections in the fall. We don't know if measures to keep us from infecting each other will work. We don't know if vaccine and therapy trials now underway will work.

At a time like this, it's easy to doubt and to wonder if prayer does much good. We pray for our leaders, for our healthcare providers, for our friends and families and ourselves. But if you're like most of us, there's an unstated, perhaps unadmitted doubt in the back of your mind—will my prayers really make any difference?

What questions or doubts or struggles are most in your heart today? Name your fear, your doubt, your worry. Then, look at Thomas. His honest questions and doubts about the resurrection of Jesus led him to discover a deeper revelation of Jesus. It's from Thomas' mouth we hear for the first time a statement of the divinity of Jesus Christ: 'my Lord, and my God!' Sincerely expressed doubt can lead to a deeper-rooted faith.

God wants us to be honest with ourselves. God is like that father who wants to sit you down on his lap and explain some things to you; maybe you will not get answers to all your questions, but the story of Thomas gives us hope that by expressing our struggles and our doubts, we will likely gain a deeper revelation of God.

Doubt is human. We all go through phases of doubt and uncertainty when we question what we believe. Or when we even question God. And God is big enough to deal with our questions. Doubt may even be a helpful and a necessary element in our faith. Even in our liturgy we talk about the 'mystery of faith.' Mystery leaves room for wonderment.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to ask questions and get answers from God for ourselves. There comes a time for all of us, when the classes of our childhood in Catholic School or Religious Education are not going to be enough. When we have to find our own God experience. We cannot live on the faith of another, but must make a personal discovery of God. The only way to ever discover your own faith comes by way of doubting. Hopefully, as you tackle the hardships of this pandemic, you will leave no rock unturned. As you wrestle with life's mysteries and sufferings, you will keep searching for answers until you find that vision, until you have that God experience. So, embrace your doubts. Don't worry, you are not alone. We're all in this together. The story of Thomas shows us that our doubts and our questions have a rightful place in God's Church.



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.

PRAYER

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.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK	WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED
Jill Ohl	James P Anfolisi
Lily O'Rourke	Charles Tighe
John Joseph Mulrooney	Henry "Hank" Winter
Steve Pomticello	Catherine A. O'Hare
Kay Perro	Virginia Bradley
Mark Cristello	Vincenza Rose Riapuzzi
Maryann Katkowsky	Dr. Thomas M. Pattagalan
Sean Anderson	Raymond Joseph Moscato
Francesca Cacavale	Kathryn Bruno
Thomas Yorke	Mary J. Burke
Helen Bondurant	Kevin Mooney
Ashley Lyons	Loretta M. Modena
Judy Kostovick	Mary Morrissey
Jack Groothuis	Fr. Theodore Howard
Sharon Devis	Maria Smith
Agnes Chun	Laura Iraggj
Blaise DeCario Webber	Nicholas Albanese
Virginia Fallon	Cirino Zappala
Sue Fleming	Nina Balducci
Kathleen Donnelly	Phil Cavallaro
Frank Keenan	Richard Pearles
Isabella Mueller	Peter Mollica
Eileen Fitzgerald	Reginald H. McLaughlin
Richard Arcario	Rocco Aracri
Janet Stemberger	Salvatore Giordano
Jho Martin	James Grimaldi
Ruben & Mercy Velasco	Trlfona C. Floro
Rose Repke	Nicole Trivigno
	Geraldine Schultz

DEAR PARISHIONERS

The priests of St. Aidan celebrated the Triduum alone this year, but you and your loved ones were foremost in our thoughts and prayers.

- **BACK TO SCHOOL.** This week we pray for all students returning to school. The 'Z Generation' are the 'Zoom Generation.' Thank you for adapting so well to internet platforms such as ZOOM and GOOGLE classroom to continue the school year. Although confined to your home, your mind continues to expand through learning, calculating, questioning, investigating and especially reading. Thank you to all our teachers at St. Aidan School for bringing the classroom to children via the internet. I can't imagine what it's like for a teacher not to be in their physical classroom and trying to teach without social contact with your students. But this is our new 'normal' and it is thanks to all our teachers that it works.
- **PRAY FOR THE SICK AND DECEASED.** A great many people in our parish continue to walk their own Via Dolorosa this Eastertide. We keep in prayer all those who are sick and suffering from this dreadful virus and their families. The list of deceased parishioners of St. Aidan can be found on our website staidanparish.org and in the bulletin. We rely on parishioners to inform us of anyone to include on these lists. Please call the parish cell, 516 404 2746 to add a name to our prayer lists.
- **PRAY FOR FRONTLINE RESPONDERS .** All around the world our dedicated doctors, nurses and frontline responders are showing us by their example what this profound act of service really means. We continue our prayers for those of you in our parish who work in the medical profession, and those who are frontline responders, that the Lord will keep you safe and give you strength and courage in these dark days.
- **PRAY FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY.** The effects of Coronavirus, physical, emotional and economic, will be with us all for some time to come. We pray for all local businesses and for those in our area who recently lost employment and are apprehensive about their financial situation for the future. May the peace and strength, which the Resurrection brings, remain with each of you in a special way in the months that lie ahead.
- **MASS AND ROSARY.** Many parishioners continue to join us for daily Mass on staidanparish.org and on Facebook. Although we are being asked to distance ourselves physically from each other, we are always joined in our faith in Christ. One group of daily Mass goes continue to join together via conference call for the recitation of the rosary. To join with them, call Charlie Kempton at 516-528-3793. Copies of the 'Little White Book' of reflections on the gospels of Easter are available at church doors.
- **PARISH SUPPORT.** With the suspension of our regular offertory collections, costs associated with managing the parish and school continue to grow. Please continue making your regular offertory commitment by mailing your envelope or by dropping it off at the rectory office door. Already 273 parishioners are donating online. Thank you so much. If you haven't already, please consider setting up a recurring gift online. It takes a few simple steps. Go to staidanparish.org and press the 'Donate' button and the rest is seamless, automatic, and very flexible.

We will as a community of faith, emerge from these challenges just as the apostles emerged from behind locked doors at Pentecost. May the Lord continue to bless us all as we pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our world.

FR. ADRIAN

SOCIAL MINISTRY

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 you, Ro Cavallaro

FAITH FORMATION

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

- Religious Education 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. Please be sure your children are studying the Catholic Basics section of their Confirmation packets (green sheets) and completing the project sheets that were previously due. You will receive updates as more information is available.
- First Communion Parents: All April and May First Communions have been cancelled. 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 most important time in the liturgical year, the Easter season, since we cannot attend Holy Mass, the following websites may be helpful. Google USCCB (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops) which provides the Scripture readings for Mass. Catholicmom.com, which ordinarily has many of the Mass worksheets made available to the children at the Family Mass, is providing videos and articles about how to celebrate Easter at home in the "domestic church." Loyolapress.com and sadlierreligion.com have some family activities and informative articles.

- Family Mass: Today is the Second Sunday of Easter also called Divine Mercy Sunday. Each week we have focused on a Word of the Week to provide a simple link to Sunday Mass that families can use throughout the following week during this time when we cannot attend Mass in person. This week's Word of the Week is MERCY. Mercy is love in action by being generous and compassionate to others. Jesus showed His mercy in today's gospel story by helping doubting Thomas to believe that He had truly risen from the dead. Hang the word MERCY on the refrigerator. Here are some ideas on incorporating MERCY into your week. Encourage children to share their toys and time with siblings. Talk about the great mercy Jesus gives us all the time. (Use very concrete examples with younger children.) Teach the family to say the prayer Jesus taught St. Faustina when He spoke to her about His Divine Mercy: "Jesus, I trust in You." Pray with children at bedtime teaching them to ask Jesus for forgiveness and His mercy. Help resolve family disputes with compassion. Praise successful good behavior. Reach out to a neighbor in need by doing a simple chore for them. Resolve a long time dispute with forgiveness. Pray at your dinner meal for those who don't know how much Jesus loves them. Talk about the Resurrection and continue to celebrate the Easter season.

If you need to reach me during this time, please email me at esmith@staidanparish.org. I promise to keep you posted as we continue to move through these challenging days. Let us pray for one another. Elaine Smith

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

All First Holy Communion Masses scheduled for April and May are suspended. A future date has not been decided.

POETRY FOR A PANDEMIC

If you would like to submit a poem you composed for our bulletin, please send it to our parish email lynnp@staidanparish.org



This is a MUST read it's great!!

What a beautiful way to think of Holy Week: How the Virus Stole Easter . With a nod to Dr. Seuss "Do Everything With Love" Mary Lou Magee-Grady

HOW THE VIRUS STOLE EASTER

BY KRISTI BOTHUR

Twas late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.
People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.
As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.
People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.
April approached and churches were closed.
"There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.
"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."
Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.
"Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed.
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.
The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.

The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.
"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.
"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.
"They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.
"That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear."
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.
And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.
But the sound wasn't depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn't be so!
But it grew with abundance!
The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!
Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!
It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!
And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
"Just how can it be?"
"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."
Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."
And what happened then?
Well....the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share the source of your life in this fight?
The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,

And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.
So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.
May the world see hope when it looks at God's
people.
May the world see the church is not a building or
steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and
resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that -
Let it start a revival.
Happy Easter

Dorothy Duffy's sister died from Covid-19. She was moved to write this poem about her death She kept hearing a drum beat in her head repeating the words "my sister is not a statistic".

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC
BY DOROTHY DUFFY

Tomorrow, when the latest Deathometer of Covid
is announced
in sonorous tones,
Whilst all the bodies still mount and curl towards
the middle of the curve
Heaped one atop and alongside the other
My sister will be among those numbers, among the
throwaway lines
Among the platitudes and lowered eyes,
an older person with underlying health conditions,
A pitiful way to lay rest the bare bones of a life.
My sister is not a statistic
Her underlying conditions were
Love
Kindness
Belief in the essential goodness of mankind
Uproarious laughter
Forgiveness
Compassion

A storyteller
A survivor
A comforter
A force of nature
And so much more
My sister is not a statistic
She died without the soft touch of a loved one's
hand
Without the feathered kiss upon her forehead
Without the muted murmur of familiar family
voices gathered around her bed,
Without the gentle roar of laughter that comes with
memories recalled
Evoked from a time that already seems distant,
when we were connected by the simplicity
of touch, of voice, of presence.
My sister is not a statistic
She was a woman who spanned the seven ages.
A mother
A grandmother
A great grandmother
A sister
A Friend
An aunt
A carer
A giver
My sister is not a statistic
And so, she joins the mounting thousands
They are not statistics on the Deathometer of Covid
They are the wives, mothers, children, fathers,
sisters, brothers,
The layers of all our loved ones
If she could, believe me when I say, she would hold
every last one of your loved ones, croon
to and comfort them and say – you were loved.
Whilst we who have been left behind mourn deep,
keening the loss, the injustice, the rage.
One day we will smile and laugh again, we will
remember with joy that, once, we shared a
life, we knew joy and survived sadness.
You are my sister.....
and I love you.

What's Happening at St. Aidan School!

Our families were asked to create a Paschal Candle to celebrate Easter. The candles were as unique as our families, but all shared the joy of the Resurrection!



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Divine Mercy Sunday Letter

from Most Rev. John O. Barres on April 19, 2020

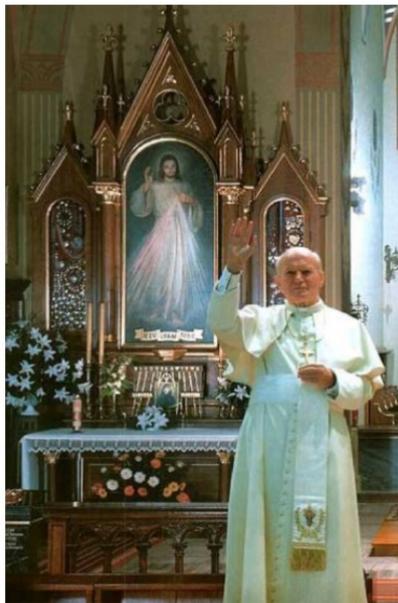
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Twenty years ago, on April 30, 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina Kowalska, the humble messenger of Divine Mercy. During his homily at the Mass of her canonization, while reflecting on the timeliness of the message of mercy for the twentieth century, the Polish pontiff pondered what humanity's future might be like. He answered plainly. "We are not given to know. However, it is certain that in addition to new progress there will unfortunately be no lack of painful experiences."¹

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted families, parishes, and communities across Long Island and beyond, stands today as one of those painful experiences. What Pope Saint John Paul II knew vaguely to be on the horizon then is sadly ours to experience firsthand now. The devastating effects of the coronavirus – death, illness, fear, uncertainty, isolation, unemployment, financial distress – have invaded our lives. The weight of this Cross has fallen on our shoulders.

Although Pope Saint John Paul II could not have foreseen the particularities of the pain we are enduring, he knew the soothing balm that would bring us peace. He understood what would "illumine

the way" during this time, namely, "the light of divine mercy," the supernatural gift that uplifts every generation.² What he proposed to humanity in his homily two decades ago, he still proposes from "the window of the Father's house"³ today: A radical receptivity of God's "great and unfathomable mercy."⁴



This Divine Mercy Sunday 2020, encouraged by Pope Saint John Paul II who points to merciful light in the midst of darkness, the Diocese of Rockville Centre receives anew the message of mercy entrusted to Saint Faustina. Together, on this Second Sunday of Easter, we look upon the Image of the Divine Mercy. In contemplating this serene painting of Our Lord, we discover again three aids for these days of crisis: Christ's gaze, His action, and a timely prayer.

First, beginning at the top of the Image, we encounter the gaze of mercy. There, the Lord's eyes look upon us. How good this is to hear and know

¹ Pope John Paul II, *Homily at the Mass for the Canonization of Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska*, April 30, 2000.

² *Ibid.*

³ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Homily at the Funeral Mass of the Roman*

⁴ *Pontiff John Paul II*, April 8, 2005.

Faustina Kowalska, *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul* (Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press, 2007) no. 570.

again! Jesus looks at us. He sees us as we are, laden, especially now, with the anxieties, burdens, and challenges of life. He sees us just as he saw those Gospel figures whom we met this Lent - the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and Martha and Mary, the grieving sisters of Lazarus. He loves us as He loved them. When feelings of loneliness or discouragement arise, when questions pervade our hearts or perplexities disturb our peace, the Image reminds us that we can look to the Lord and always find Him looking at us. In his eyes, we can discover “the look of love which [we] crave.”⁵ There, we can meet mercy, “the greatest attribute of God,” which “no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.”⁶

Second, in contemplating the Image of the Divine Mercy, we note the two rays emanating from Our Lord’s breast, one red and one pale. As the Lord told Saint Faustina, “The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls.”⁷ With the Church through centuries, we see in them the sacraments, Baptism and Eucharist, and we trace these gifts of life back to their source, His pierced side (cf. Jn. 19:34). These glorious rays flow from woundedness. Their origin is in the victory of the Cross. They highlight an act of love, a total gift of self. This pale ray and red ray remind us that the Lord has acted for us. Undeserving though we were, he loved us to the end (cf. Jn. 13:1) and laid down his life for us. “God is love, and Mercy is His deed.”⁸ And we are the beneficiaries of that mercy. In these weeks, when God might seem unmoved or distant, these rays proclaim again the tender mercy shown from the Cross. They profess that God has acted and that He still acts with a mercy that sustains the world.

Third, we read the “signature” at the bottom of the Image, “Jesus, I trust in you.”⁹ On this year’s Feast

of the Divine Mercy, the familiar line is more striking. Its five words formulate perfectly a prayer in the midst of so much uncertainty. How good is the Lord! He still teaches his disciples how to pray (cf. Lk. 11:1), and He invites us to make these words the signature of our lives. This prayer is not offered blindly. It is said after having met the Lord’s gaze and having been vivified in His life-giving rays. Our bold placing of trust arises from “the ocean of mercy” He has shown to us and from

which we have received.¹⁰

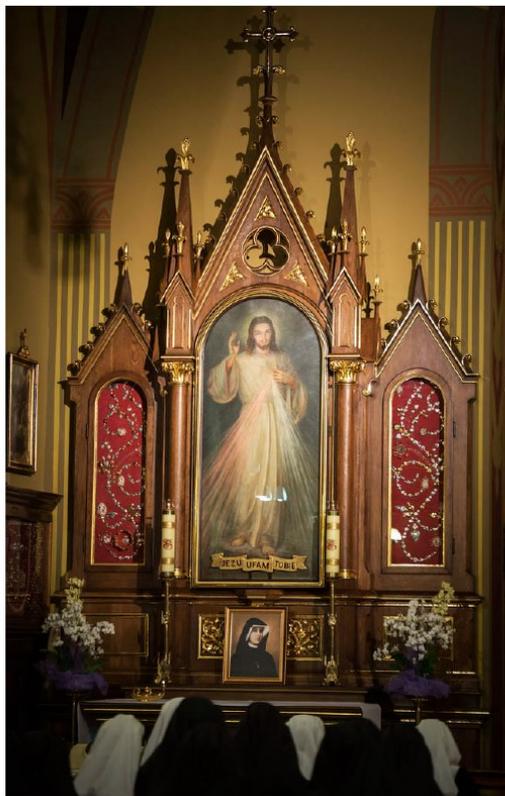
Through our contemplation of the Image, we recall that God has moved towards us, that He has loved us, and that He has shown mercy to us, and therefore, we know it is reasonable to say, “*Jesus, I trust in you.*”

The Lord’s look, His love, and that brief prayer are special gifts this year. They offer consolation. They provide peace.

The Image of the Divine Mercy also serves as “a reminder of the demands of [His] mercy.”¹¹ As Pope Saint John Paul II said in his second encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia (Rich in Mercy)*, “Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God,

but that he is also called ‘to practice mercy’ towards others.”¹² In short, we who have received mercy are called to give mercy.

In these weeks, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are being lived radiantly. Witnesses of mercy are in our midst, and our gratitude flows to the many who are sharing what they have received.



⁵ See Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter, *Deus Caritas Est*, 18.

⁶ Kowalska, *Diary*, nos. 301 and 699.

⁷ *Ibid.*, no. 299.

⁸ *Ibid.*, no. 651.

⁹ *Ibid.*, no. 47.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, no. 1319.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, no. 742.

¹² Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Dives in Misericordia*, 14.

We call to mind the heroic virtue and tender mercy alive in our families and among our neighbors. With Pope Francis, we think, too, of those women and men who are “writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, deacons, religious men and women and so very many others.”¹³ In this challenging time, mercy is on display.

Divine Mercy Sunday falls this year between two notable anniversaries in the life and pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul II. Both of which provide insight and wisdom for our present situation.

The first anniversary occurred on March 25th, when we marked twenty-five years since the release of Pope Saint John Paul II’s encyclical letter on the Gospel of Life (*Evangelium Vitae*). That letter shone the light of the Divine Mercy on threats against life. It articulated the good news of life, a gift from God that leads to eternal life with God, and it called every person to “respect,

protect, love and serve life.”¹⁴ The truth and beauty of the encyclical is underscored in these days when our fragility is before us and society is united in its concern for life.

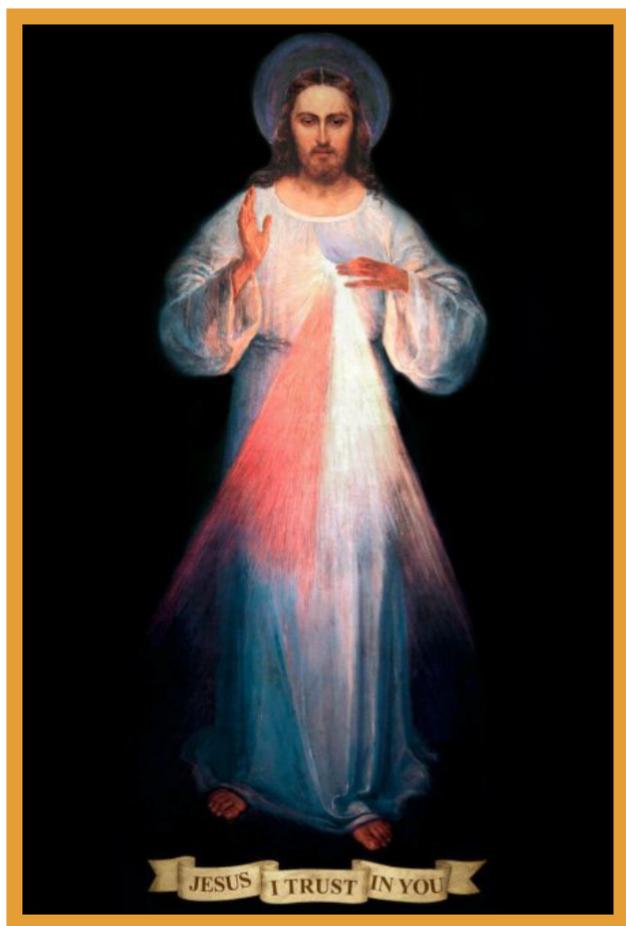
The second anniversary falls on May 18th, when we will celebrate the centenary of Pope Saint John Paul II’s birth. Spending time with this indefatigable preacher of mercy, it is good to remember that his life was not immune to crisis and turmoil. He witnessed and experienced much that could have weighed him down. However, throughout his journey, he turned to the Lord and sought to know His mercy. May he help us invite the Divine Mercy into our lives, especially in these days.

Together with Pope Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina, let us implore Almighty God:

*I fly to Your mercy, Compassionate God, who alone are good. Although my misery is great, and my offenses are many, I trust in Your mercy, because You are the God of mercy; and, from time immemorial, it has never been heard of, nor do heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy has been disappointed.*¹⁵

Let us pray for the souls of those who have died from the coronavirus and for the solace of their families. We entrust them to the Divine Mercy.

And whatever may come, let us never fail to say, *Jesus, I trust in you.*



Sincerely in Christ,



+ John O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹³ Pope Francis, *Extraordinary Moment of Prayer*, March 27, 2020.

¹⁴ Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Evangelium Vitae*, March 25, 1995, 5.

¹⁵ Kowalska, *Diary*, no. 1730.



arrest them, too. When Jesus appears to them, He says “Peace be with you.” They no longer need worry, He is truly among them. He breathes on them and says “Receive the Holy Spirit.” The breath of God, and its association with the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit in the New Testament,

the Divine Mercy of Jesus, a devotion given to St. Faustina (Maria Faustina Kowalska), and is based upon her journal of her prayer life in which she notes that Jesus will grant full remission of their sins and punishments to anyone who participates in this Mass and receives the sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist on this day. The devotion was very important to Pope John Paul II, who canonized St. Faustina and designated the Sunday after Easter as the Sunday of the Divine Mercy in the General Roman Calendar. John Paul II, who died in April 2005 on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, was beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday, 1 May 2011, by his successor, Pope Benedict XVI and was canonized, along with Pope John XXIII, on Divine Mercy Sunday, 27 April 2014, by Pope Francis. How appropriate a devotion for the Sunday on which we read of the institution of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

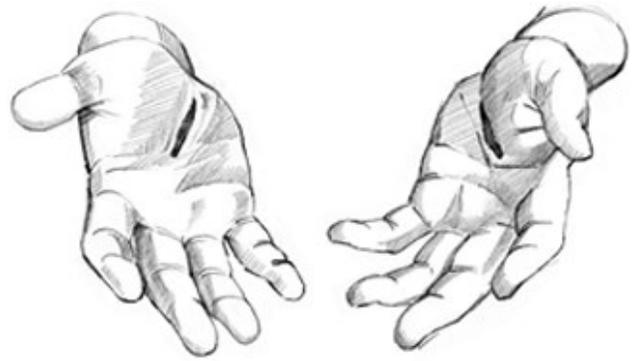
We are now celebrating the liturgical season of Eastertide, which is the period of 50 days starting on Easter Sunday and ending on Pentecost Sunday. It is celebrated as a single joyful feast, called the "great Lord's Day". Each Sunday of the season is treated as a Sunday of Easter. Easter Sunday is the first Sunday of Eastertide and the following Sunday (once called Low Sunday) is the second Sunday of Eastertide and so on. The first eight days of Eastertide constitute the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank celebrating a mystery of faith such as the Trinity, an event in the life of Jesus, his mother Mary, or another important saint. The Octave of a feast refers to an eight-day festal period commencing with that feast, so Easter was the first day of the octave, and today is the eighth and last day. Presently in the Roman Catholic Church, Easter is one of only two solemnities that carries an octave, the other being Christmas Day. Today is also one of the few Sundays on which we read the same Gospel every year. It is taken from St. John and relates how Jesus came to the apostles right after the Resurrection even though they were locked for safety in the upper room for fear that the authorities might

appear in the bible many times, beginning all the way back in Genesis in the creation story. It represents the creative power of God. Here, we see Jesus using it to give His apostles, and our priests, a power previously reserved to God: they can now forgive sins. This was one of the reasons the Jewish authorities accused Jesus of blasphemy – He forgave sins, and, therefore, in their minds, usurped the power of God. Now He, Who is God, grants that power to the apostles. Perhaps this is why we hear this Gospel every year. There is a second piece of this Gospel, too. St. Thomas missed Jesus' appearance and didn't believe the others when they told Him. Just like St. Peter, he is a great example for us. He is not perfect. But when he, too, sees the glorified Jesus, he gives us one of the most profound statements of faith ever recorded: “My Lord and my God.” Finally, since 2000, today, the Second Sunday of Easter, is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. It is the end of the novena to

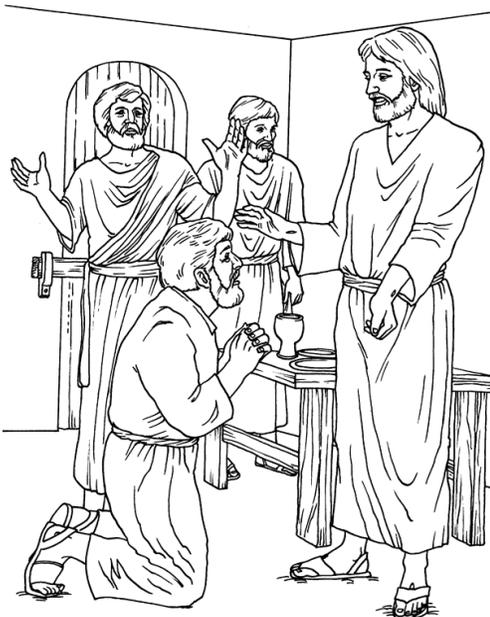
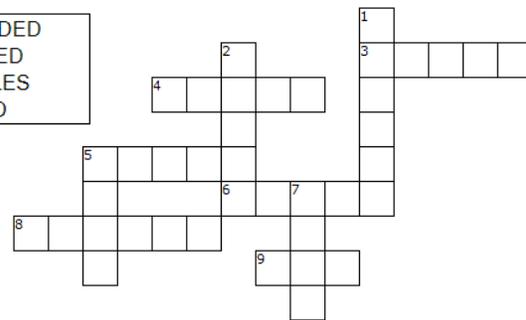
Rx for Body and Spirit

For Your Body	For Your Spirit
Wash your hands often.	Make an Act of Spiritual Communion.
Avoid close contact with other people.	Pray the Rosary.
Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.	Participate in a televised or live-streamed Mass.
Stay home if you're sick (except to get medical care).	Take time for family prayer.
Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.	Practice Lectio Divina.
	Don't forget to help your parish with donations.

Y J M N P S M B J D J Y D J S
 C X I T A T F M L H O Y W A X
 W X R K N Y G X P O F O M E D
 X M A D V Y G E A X C O R E H
 R X C C J V D R L X H K V S A
 T L L U V E D A E T N E E D M
 T K E S H E H I R C I N S D S
 O X S C W B A S S L O C Y N T
 G R U O L K N Z E C L R G D N
 E O H D Q Z D B H J I I D E P
 T S I U J J S A S R S P F E Z
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 E T W U S N K D D U L G E E E
 R S R N U K P S E S L V H N S
 R P T V S V D O U B T I N G B



JESUS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	RECORDED
MIRACLES	SIGNS	SHOWED	BELIEVED
DOORS	LIFE	HANDS	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	THOMAS	SIDE	LOCKED



ACROSS

- 3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
- 4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
- 5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
- 6. The body parts at the end of the arms
- 8. Not open
- 9. To break God's law

DOWN

- 1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
- 2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
- 5. An entrance into a building or room
- 7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

PEACE	DOOR	HANDS	FAITH	HAPPY
NAIL	THOMAS	CLOSED	SIN	DOUBT

FORMED® PICK OF THE WEEK



Divine Mercy with Father Michael Gaitley

The vast panorama of God's work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced interwoven through the transformative events of Saint Faustina, Mary at Fatima, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope Saint John Paul II.

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