



CHURCH OF
SAINT AIDAN

May 3, 2020

**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. Solomon Odinukwe

Rev. Ken Grooms is assisting at St.
Pius X Residence for retired
clergy

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,

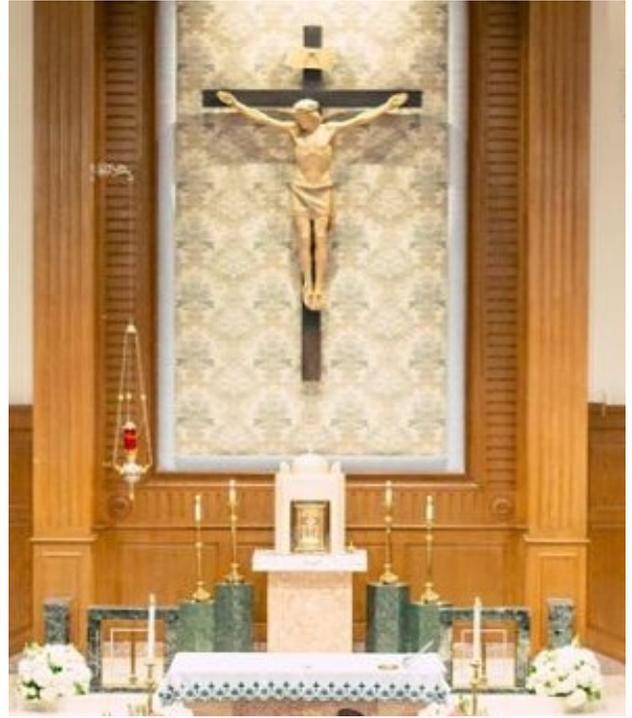
Youth Ministry
Coordinator ext. 403
Mr. Stephen Loewenthal

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, MAY 4

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

TUESDAY, MAY 5

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

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

THURSDAY, MAY 7

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

FRIDAY, MAY 8

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

SATURDAY, MAY 9

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

SUNDAY, MAY 10

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

EASTER WEEKDAY

Mary Costabile (Birthday Rem.)
Ralph DiBello (1st Anniversary Rem.)
Lv. Ints. of the Kenny & Kelly Family
Mary Hogan (Birthday Rem.)

EASTER WEEKDAY

Leo Hahn
Donald Huenger
Maryann Cilia (Birthday Rem.)
Peter Amico (Birthday Rem.)

EASTER WEEKDAY

Terence J. Sullivan (10th Anniversary Rem.)
William O'Brien (Anniversary Rem.)
Joan McAleese
Dcd. Mbrs. of the Oliver & Freeman Family

EASTER WEEKDAY

Lv. Ints. of Rose Lee (Birthday)
Marty Iraggi (Birthday Rem.)
Joan McAleese
John Patrick Mulrooney

EASTER WEEKDAY

Sally Piltz (Anniversary Rem.)
Mary Cataliotti and Isabella Nicolia
(1st Anniversary Rem.)
Lv. & Dcd. Mbrs. of the Clinton
& Tinghitella Family
Matthew Clark

EASTER WEEKDAY

Daniel O'Sullivan
Maureen Hogan (Birthday Rem.)
Christopher M. Hane, Sr. (Anniversary Rem.)
Gino Guglielmi (Birthday Rem.)
Thomas L. Clark
Ruth Daliendo & Barbara Cross

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Dan & Sheila O'Brien
Lv. & Dcd. Mbrs. of the Lally & Leonard Family
Parishioners of St. Aidan
Richie Cavallaro & Connie Sheehan
Robert J. McEnroe (17th Anniversary Rem.)
Florence Simblett
Julia Daly
June Jandovitz
Reynaldo Borja (22nd Anniversary Rem.)
Louise Ann Rogan

I am
the
gate
for the
sheep





What's Pastor Thinking

Jesus tells us that he is the shepherd and we are the sheep, which all sounds good, until you get to know a little about sheep.

To begin with, sheep are considered one of God's dumber animals. Not very bright. And they smell. Another thing, if you chase a sheep he will start running and not stop. The sheep doesn't look back and doesn't know it is not being chased and will run until it dies. Very dumb. Sheep need protecting. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us, 'I am the gate for the sheep.' Sounds pretty strange. We have to go back to the culture of the Ancient Near East to figure out what Jesus is talking about. In those days they built paddocks for sheep. They slept there at night. But the paddock had no gate, so the shepherd would sleep across the entrance. Any person or animal entering or leaving would have to go past the shepherd, so the sheep would be protected. And that's JESUS, THE PROTECTOR.

God knows we need divine protection right now as we continue to be alarmed by numbers of family, friends and neighbors who are sick and dying. We need divine protection from descending into despair as social isolation and the cancellation of events and celebrations leave us isolated. We have to wonder, if there really is an unseen enemy out there that we can't control, that is out to get us? We turn for help to the most well-known verse in the Bible. Psalm 23 tells us. "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT." When Jesus tells us that he is the good shepherd we like to believe that means that Jesus is always going to surround us with good things that will make us comfortable in life. He's going to lead us to lie down in green pastures where there is plenty of food for us to eat and be happy. But then we choose to forget that's not the only place that life leads us. There are other valleys: the valley of sickness, the valley of loneliness, the valley of pain and suffering, the



valley of broken dreams or unfulfilled promises, the valley of unemployment and homelessness, the valley of the loss of a skill or talent, and the valley of the death of someone we love. Those are valleys we have no control over and yet the events of life seem to slide us into them whether we are willing to go or not. This is not the first virus or plague to enter the world but here too we meet the Good Shepherd who says, 'A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; but I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.' God knew about the coronavirus ten years ago and even one thousand years ago. God knew about our days before a single one of them came into being. Nothing has ever caught God by surprise. Let us make our prayer Psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd,' and believe we are His sheep, the sheep of His pasture.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

We keep in prayer all those who are sick and suffering. 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.

Jill Ohl
Lily O'Rourke
John Joseph Mulrooney
Steve Pomticello
Kay Perro
Mark Cristello
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
Sue Fleming
Kathleen Donnelly
Frank Keenan
Isabella Mueller
Eileen Fitzgerald
Richard Arcario
Janet Stemberger
Jho Martin
Mercy Velasco
Rosemarie Paganelli
Anthony Bosco
Walter Stachurski
Bernadette Abbate
Peter Tedesco
Tony Sigonolsi

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Cirino Zappala
Nina Balducci
Phil Cavallaro
Richard Pearles
Peter Mollica
Nicholas Albanese
Reginald H. McLaughlin
Rocco Aracri
Salvatore Giordano
James Grimaldi
Trifonia C. Floro
Nicole Trivigno
Geraldine Schultz
Catherine Ahlstrom
Michael Murphy
Jean Galonardo
Kathleen O'Mara
Thomas Connor
Mary Carotenuto
Patricia Sullivan
Diane Papapogiannis
Gloria Schilter
Eulyn Best
John Wheeler
Rosemary Ruffenach
Ruben Velasco
Elvira Foldes
Anna Tagliaferro
Timothy O'Sullivan
Josephine Baltzer
Georgie Baltzer
Rose Repke
Florence Vaskas
Mary Lucas
Mary Lathuras
Savino Chimienti
Rosemary Holmes

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.



HONORING MARY

May is the month for Mary. She is our mother and guide — full of love, wisdom and intercession for her children. She was given to us as our mother, and the church's mother, when Jesus said from the cross, "Behold, your mother." (John 19:27). During the month of May we honor Mary in a special way. Why not share your love of Mary with your family by placing a statue of Mary in the middle of the kitchen and arrange white or blue candles around her. She is then in the center of your family as you gather for meals. Bring flowers in from outdoors to beautify the space. After all, what child doesn't like to give flowers to their mother? Join in praying the 'Renewal of the Consecration of the United States of America to the Blessed Virgin Mary.' The prayer can be found in today's bulletin.

Mater Ecclesiae, ora pro nobis!

Mother of the Church, pray for us!

DEAR YOUNG PARISHIONERS AND YOUR FAMILIES

When you first heard that school would be shutting down for a few weeks, you didn't seem to mind all that much. But then when we realized that all other extracurricular activities had also been canceled ... there was a lot of disappointment and anger. Everything from field trips, school plays, musical performances and recitals, graduation ceremonies, sports events and church events... coronavirus has canceled all the fun. If you are angry I don't blame you.

During the month of May my thoughts are with all of you in second grade as the cancellation of First Holy Communion is a big deal for you and your family. Everyone was looking forward to celebrating with you and I know how hard you've worked on preparing for the big day.

Now some people might say, 'It's not the end of the world, there are children starving, yada, yada.' Don't listen to them. Know it's OK to feel disappointed. I feel it too. I also share all the other emotions you have felt over these last few weeks – fear, worry, anger, frustration. These emotions are contagious. They can spread through the whole household and affect everyone. The good news is that peace and calm is also contagious, and that's my hope – that we will pass peace and calm to one another. Having a mantra, like 'This too shall pass,' can help, especially if you say it enough. Or praying the words of the 23rd Psalm 'the Lord is my Shepherd.' Or keeping in mind words spoken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 'The only thing we have to fear is fear itself,' can help.

I am frequently asked when will we hold First Holy Communion at St. Aidan, and I have to tell the truth - I am not capable of answering that question right now. Let us monitor the situation together and see how it goes.

A bright side to the everyday disruptions from coronavirus safety measures is that those who are growing up in 2020 will be stronger in facing the future. We love you, and we don't blame you for feeling angry and disappointed, but I need to tell you that this is a curve ball, and life is going to throw a lot of them. Your response to curve balls is the only thing you can control. So together let us face the future aware of life's uncertainties and trust that our God will help us through.

PRAYING TOGETHER HELPS

You can join us for Mass on staidanparish.org and on Facebook. May is the month for Mary. She is our mother and guide – full of love, wisdom and intercession for her children. Why not place a statue of Mary in the kitchen and arrange white or blue candles around her. She is then in the center of your family as you gather for meals and pray the rosary.

ST. AIDAN PARISH WILL BE HERE AFTER THIS IS OVER

It's thanks to the generous support of parishioners that St. Aidan's Church and School will continue to serve the people in this area. Many thanks to all those who mail and drop envelopes to the rectory office. Already 294 parishioners are donating online. To donate online go to staidanparish.org and press the 'Donate' button and the rest is seamless and automatic.

WE KEEP IN PRAYER ALL THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND SUFFERING

Please call the parish cell, 516-404-2746 to add a name to our prayer lists.

WE PRAY FOR FRONTLINE RESPONDERS

Our church bells ring out a patriotic song every evening at 5:00 PM in thanks to those of you in our parish who work in the medical profession, and those who are frontline responders. May the Lord keep you safe and give you strength and courage in these dark days.

SHOP LOCAL AND SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

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.

We will come out of this kinder, stronger and more grounded in the truth of what's really important in our lives.

FR. ADRIAN



White Mass

Praying for Health Care Workers

White Masses (so named for the white coats and uniforms worn by many healthcare professionals) are special opportunities to ask God's blessings for those serving in the medical field.

11:00 am  **May 17, 2020**

Celebrant and Homilist: Bishop Barres

Airing on  CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK from St. Agnes Cathedral

CFN is available through 24/7 live stream at CFNTV.org and on selected cable and satellite systems.
Optimum channel 29/137 • Verizon FiOS TV channel 296 • Spectrum channel 162/471
You can also watch CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android, or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app.

Office of Communications – April 2020

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

When our Risen Lord appeared to his disciples on Easter Sunday he said: "Peace be with you." We can be confident that he desires this same peace for all the members of His body, the Church, and for the people of the entire world.



In this difficult time we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and Queen of Peace, to ask that she intercede with her Son for all those who are affected in any way by this pandemic. As we renew the consecration of our country and of ourselves to the Mother of the God, we implore her maternal care for her children.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, Father of mercies,
whose Only Begotten Son,
as he hung upon the Cross,
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary,
his Mother, to be our Mother also,
grant, we pray,
that with her loving help
your Church may be more fruitful
day by day
and, exulting in the holiness
of her children,
may draw to her embrace
all the families of the peoples.
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.
R. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 19:25-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.
The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

DECADE OF THE ROSARY

Recalling Jesus' words as he hung on the cross – "Behold, your mother" – we meditate on the fifth sorrowful mystery of the Rosary, The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord.

PRAY THE DECADE

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

PRAYER OF RENEWAL OF OUR CONSECRATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Let us now entrust our country and ourselves once again to the Virgin Mary's care:

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, you are the fairest fruit of God's redeeming love; you sing of the Father's mercy and accompany us with a mother's love.

In this time of pandemic we come to you, our sign of sure hope and comfort.

Today we renew the act of consecration and entrustment carried out by those who have gone before us.

With the love of a Mother and Handmaid, embrace us as we renew our consecration to you, together with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In a special way we commend to you those particularly in need of your maternal care.

Mary, Health of the Sick,
sign of health, of healing, and of
divine hope for the sick, we entrust
to you all who are infected with the
coronavirus.

Mary, Mother of Consolation,
who console with a mother's love
all who turn to you,
we entrust to you all those who
have lost loved ones in the
pandemic.

Mary, Help of Christians,
who come to our rescue in every
trial, we entrust to your loving
protection all caregivers.

Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy,
who embrace all those who call
upon your help in their distress,
we entrust to you all who are
suffering in any way from the
pandemic.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom,
who were so wonderfully filled
with the light of truth, we entrust
to you all who are working to find
a cure to this pandemic.

Mary, Mother of Good Counsel,
who gave yourself wholeheartedly
to God's plan for the renewing of
all things in Christ, we entrust to
you all leaders and policymakers.

Accept with the benevolence of a
Mother
the act of consecration that we
make today with confidence, and
help us to be your Son's
instruments

for the healing and salvation of our
country and the world.

Mary, Mother of the Church,
you are enthroned as queen at
your Son's right hand:
we ask your intercession for the
needs of our country,
that every desire for good may be
blessed and strengthened,
that faith may be revived and
nourished,
hope sustained and enlightened,
charity awakened and animated;
guide us, we pray,
along the path of holiness.

Mary our Mother,
bring everyone under your
protection and entrust everyone to
your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

As we conclude this consecration,
we ask the blessing of Almighty
God:

Let us pray.
Bestow the grace of your kindness
upon your supplicant people, O
Lord,
that, formed by you, their creator,
and restored by you, their
sustainer,
through your constant action they
may be saved.
R. Amen.

May the Lord bless us, protect us
from all evil and bring us to
everlasting life. R. Amen.



DAILY ROSARY

One group of daily Mass-goers
continue to join together via
conference call for the recitation of
the rosary. To join with them, call
Charlie Kempton at 516-528-3793.

THE ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

Our Mass intention for May is
deceased Rosarians Joan McAleese
and Carol McKeon. Please keep
them and their families in your
prayers.

Sadly, our Communion Breakfast,
scheduled for May 3rd and our
May meeting have been cancelled.
Please continue your prayers for
all Health Care workers, Food,
Pharmacy and Transportation
workers, our Fire and Police
Departments and all those who
have made our lives safer.
President Kathy Kane and the
Board are trying to stay current
and will notify you of future plans
as they become available.

FAITH FORMATION

- 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 THE Easter season at home in the “domestic church.” Loyolapress.com and sadlierreligion.com have some family activities and informative articles.

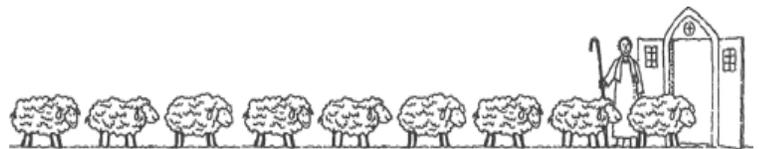
If you need to reach me during this time, please email me at esmith@staidanparish.org. I promise to keep you posted as we continue to move through these challenging days. Let us pray for one another.

Elaine Smith

FAMILY MASS

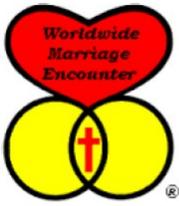
Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Each week we are continuing to focus on a Word of the Week to provide a simple link to Sunday Mass that families can use throughout the following week during this time when we cannot attend Mass in person. This week's Word of the Week is RELATIONSHIP. Place the word RELATIONSHIP on the refrigerator as a

reminder during the week. In today's Gospel (John 10:1-10) Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd, who cares for His sheep. Jesus explains that His sheep recognize His voice because they have a relationship with Him. Children can understand what it means to have a relationship with someone. They may not understand the word at first but they do understand what they have experienced in the relationships they have within their families and for older children, the relationships they have with friends. Here are some ideas on how to incorporate this week's word during the week. Talk about what it means to have a relationship with someone. Use your family as a model for the conversation and explain to children that Jesus has a special relationship with each of us because we are baptized into God's family. Practice being patient during moments of tension especially tension that is a result of everyone being so close together most of the time. Make a schedule for sharing video games and toys that the children often argue about because you are in a family relationship. Have a family prayer time centered on the family relationships. Help children cultivate an active relationship with Jesus through individual spontaneous prayer. Make a communal family poster with each family member being honored for their special gifts and talents. Try to also include any activities you do as a family. Be sure to display the poster! Because we are baptized into a relationship with our parish family, help children earn a little money to donate to Parish Outreach to help those in need.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

In light of the impending health crisis affecting our community the Social Ministry office would like to provide help to the elderly, homebound, 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



2020 Worldwide Marriage Encounter LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE Project

Nominations are now being received for the 2020 Longest Married Couple Project (LMC) Sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME). This is WWME's ninth annual project with nominations being accepted until May 15th, 2020

This year's presentations to the winners will be held during June, which is known as Marriage Month, and provides the perfect time to honor the winning couples.

Pictured below are the National Winners from 2011 – 2018. All the winning couples were married 78 – 82 years at the time of their award presentation.



**Could you or someone you love be
the next National Winner?**

**2020 Longest
Married Couple
???**

The state winners, who are generally married 50, 60 or 70 plus years, will also be recognized for their longest marriages in June by Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples from their states. Winners of the Longest Married Couple project are selected solely from nominations submitted.

Go to wwme.org to make your nomination!!

Click "Nominate Today" located at the upper right of the home page.

What's Happening at St. Aidan School!

The St. Aidan School Class of 2020 have been in our thoughts and prayers during this unprecedented, yet exciting time in their educational career. They were not able to gather as a class to receive their St. Aidan School ring, but we wanted to make this milestone special.

The St. Aidan School rings were blessed and delivered to all our 8th graders by Fr. Adrian, Mrs. O'Connell, and Mrs. Graham. They also received a special sign to proudly display in front of their home.



May we present the...



What's Happening at St. Aidan School!



What's Happening at St. Aidan School!



What's Happening at St. Aidan School!



What's Happening at St. Aidan School!



What's Happening at St. Aidan School!



What's Happening at St. Aidan School!



What's Happening at St. Aidan School!



Lord Jesus Christ, I come into Your holy presence today to express my sincere gratitude for all You have done to bring me to this special moment. Today, I receive my St. Aidan School ring.

As I wear this ring, may it serve as a reminder of my commitment to my school and to the tradition for which it stands. I promise today to dedicate myself to the principles I have learned here at St. Aidan School.

I shall treat every person I meet with honesty and respect. I shall do everything I can to become a person of integrity, of justice, of honor.

Lord Jesus, may this ring be a symbol of my loyalty to You, loyalty to my school, loyalty to the Christian values I have been taught here, loyalty to the friends I have made here, and loyalty to the St. Aidan Spirit I have felt here.

Help me, O Lord, always to be worthy of being called a graduate of this fine school whose ring I shall wear with pride.

I ask this in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!



How many books are there in the Bible? That depends upon whether you are Jewish, a member of one of many Protestant Christian churches, or Catholic.

Properly, the Jewish canon contains 24 books, one for each of the scrolls on which these works were written in ancient times. The specific times at which they were written, and the authorship, has been the subject of intense study and is still subject to some scholarly debate. It is organized into three main sections: the Torah, or “Teaching,” which is also called the Pentateuch or the “Five Books of Moses” (who did not write them); the Nevi’im, or Prophets; and the Ketuvim, or Writings. Each of these is further subdivided. The Torah consists of stories of the Jewish forefathers and their relationship with God combined with rules and instructions in the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The books of the Nevi’im are grouped into two sections, the Former Prophets and the Latter Prophets. The Former Prophets deal with accounts of major ancestral Jewish or Hebrew persons and the early development of Jewish traditions

and the Jewish state and include Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings, while the Latter Prophets describe later events in Jewish history often exhorting Israel to return to God and are named, because they are either attributed to or contain stories about them, for the Major Prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and (together in one book known as “The Book of the Twelve”) the Minor Prophets, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Being classified as a major or minor prophet is partly based on the relative importance of the person, but also on the length of the book. The last of the three divisions, called the Ketuvim, contains poetry, theology, and drama in Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles.

Most Christian Bibles also include the books of the Hebrew Bible, referred to as the Old Testament, and consider it not only as referring to the Covenant established by God with His chosen people of Israel, but as the prophecy foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ as God’s appointed Messiah, thus fulfilling the promise of the Old Testament and establishing the New Covenant.

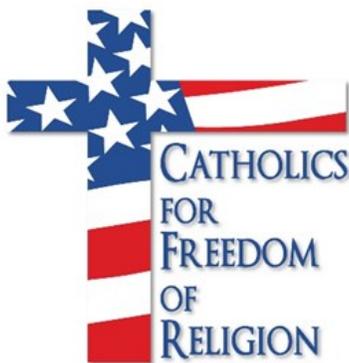
The name Old Testament was originated by a Christian, Melito of Sardis, about 170 AD to distinguish this part of the Bible from the

writings recognized as the New Testament, recounting the life and ministry of Jesus and recording the history and spread of the early Christian church. The Old Testament, as adopted by Christianity, contains more than 24 books for several reasons. First, because Christians divided some of the Jewish texts into two or more parts: Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles into two parts each and Ezra-Nehemiah into two separate books; then the Minor Prophets were divided up into 12 separate books. This results in 39 books. The books included in the New Testament were also subject to intense discussion among the early church fathers, but by roughly the middle of the fourth century, the list we currently read was finalized. There are 27 of them. This comprises the Bible for many Christian churches, and is the basis for, among others, the King James Bible.

In addition, however, the Bibles used in the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and some Protestant churches were originally derived from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible produced about the third century AD. This included some books deemed noncanonical by Orthodox Judaism and, later, most Protestant churches. Some, but not all of these, are included in the current Old Testament we use. They are the books of Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and

Baruch, plus slightly longer versions of Daniel and Esther, and one additional psalm. So our Old Testament contains 46 books.

So, the answer to the question at the beginning of this is: if you are Jewish, there are 24 books in the Bible. If you are a member of most Protestant churches, there are 66. And for us Catholics, there are 73.



Religious Liberty or Religious Oppression: A Time to Choose (Part 1)

Across the country, many government officials have announced stay-at-home orders of dubious constitutional validity. The result is that in many communities the jails are being emptied of criminals while individuals respecting appropriate precautions have been arrested for the crime of being outside their home. This has led to protests in many states. "We have God-given rights that are infringed upon right now, every day this state remains closed," said a NC protestor. (1) "I understand the need for caution, but I think it's gone way past

anything reasonable," said a Kentucky resident. (2)

NYS Executive Order from governor states: "all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reasons (worship services, parties, etc.) are canceled or postponed. Further, individuals should not gather in ... homes... for religious services until the end of this public health emergency."(3) He further provides an online form for residents to report fellow New Yorkers they think are breaking the rules.

Michigan governor issued new orders to prohibit visiting family or friends unless to provide care; buying non-essential items such as gardening equipment, potting soil and seeds when in a store buying groceries; banning travel to a vacation home; banning some types of boats but not others.

Los Angeles, CA, mayor is encouraging residents to "snitch" on fellow citizens. "We want to thank you for turning folks in and making sure we are all safe."(4)

NY City mayor is telling New Yorkers, "Bang, send a photo like this, and we will make sure that enforcement comes right away," if they observe anyone being too close.(5)

Kentucky State Troopers recorded license plate numbers of Christians who attended drive-in services on

Easter...in spite of nails spread across the drive way entrances.

In NC, as in all states, abortion clinics continue in operation but elective surgery such as hip replacements are banned in hospitals. Sidewalk pro-life counselors, practicing social-distancing in front of a NC abortion facility, were handcuffed and arrested. "We are a federally recognized public charity," said a Cities4Life volunteer. "I am well within my constitutional authority to be here."(6)

"The human desire for freedom is universal and cannot be repressed. The longing for freedom accrues and is common to all humanity." - Sec. of State Pompeo, Nov. 15, 2019, reflecting on his recent trip to Germany to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. (7)

"Safety from external danger is the most powerful director of national conduct.

To be more safe (nations), at length, become willing to run the risk of being less free." - Alexander Hamilton, Founding Father

(cnn.com, 4/17/20(1)(2); CHQ.com, 4/6/20; albanyupdate.com, 4/11/20 (3); independentsentinel.com, 4/4/20(4); dnyuz.com, 4/18/20 (5); dailycaller.com, 4/15/20; frc.org, 4/6/20(6); share.america.gov, 11/15/19(7).

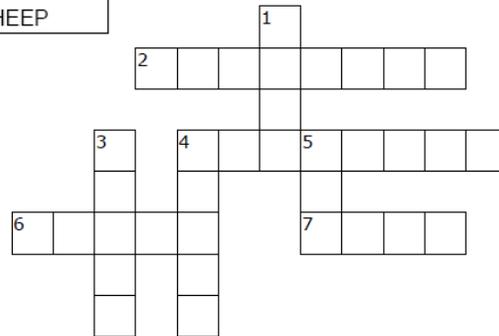
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LEADS	ROBBER	PEN	WATCHMAN	TRUTH
FOLLOW	DESTROY	THIEF	STRANGER	GATE
VOICE	STEAL	SHEPHERD	NAME	SHEEP



THE GOOD SHEPHERD



ACROSS

- Someone not known or not familiar
- A person who takes care of sheep
- The sound made when people speak or sing
- The word or words by which a person or thing is known

DOWN

- An opening in a fence for entrance or exit
- Someone who steals
- A farm animal with thick curly wool
- A small area surrounded by a fence in which animals are kept

SHEPHERD	PEN	SHEEP	STRANGER
THIEF	NAME	GATE	VOICE

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