

## Fifth Week of Lent

If you have a Mass intention scheduled while Masses are suspended, the Mass intention will be moved to a later date, and you will be notified of the change. If you need a Mass intention for a critical reason such as a serious illness, surgery, or a death in the family, Father Jack will offer a private Mass for your intention.

For Parish News and Updates,  
Visit the Parish Website at  
**[www.stmatthias.org](http://www.stmatthias.org)**  
Look for Father Jack on Facebook  
or on the Parish Facebook Page

## How Do I Make a Spiritual Communion?

*Below are recommendations to make a 'spiritual communion' when unable to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The recommendations can be adapted based upon personal and family needs.*

- Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. The readings are available at [usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings) and a Sunday Gospel reflection on [youtube.com/washarchdiocese](http://youtube.com/washarchdiocese).
- Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray one of the prayers of spiritual communion (Go to [adw.org](http://adw.org)) to view prayers.
- Close with the sign of the cross.

**Please pray for the sick and homebound in our parish, our neighbors, family, and friends:**

Elaine Brooks; Muriel Brown; Yvette Butler; Rose Chisefsky; Chunyere Duru; Helen Dziduch; Patricia Farland; Michele Feaster; John Graham; Genevieve Greenfield; William Halbe; Jan Jarus; George Johnson; Joseph Johnson; John and Joan Kodak; Cathy Pielmeier; Adelino "Babe" Pereira; Evelyn Turley; Peggy Wills; Mae Young; Sister Giustina Zanin; Ziara Zanin; Don Zehner; Rita and Eugene Zehner

***For our military, protect them from all harm.  
For the faithful departed may they rest in peace.***

To add or remove a name from the sick list, please call the parish office at 301-459-4814 x 201.

## A Message From the Pastor

We pray that the coronavirus will soon run its course, and that over time, restrictions will be lifted. In the meantime, the Diocese does have many on-line resources listed in the bulletin to continue our Lenten journey, as well as Mass on TV. Although this cannot substitute for the public Mass, it can help us to continue to pray for the health and safety of people who are ill, our doctors, nurses, and hospital staff, our first responders, and many others who are giving selflessly in this time of great need.

I will continue to hear confessions on an individual basis. Please give me a call at (301) 459-4814 ext. 229 and leave a message. The chapel is still open, and I will consider opening the church during the day for prayer and reflection as we approach Easter. Obviously, if you are sick or coughing, please, in charity, DO NOT COME to the church. If you are in the church or chapel, please maintain a 6 feet minimum distance from others, consistent with safety guidelines.

The parish office is now closed and will remain so until we are directed otherwise. Our staff is working from home and will respond to phone messages and emails.

Our fixed costs remain, and I thank you for using your envelopes or Faith Direct. Feel free to mail your contribution or drop your envelopes in the mail slot of the door to the Hughes Center.

Please pray for Fr. Canice and me and be assured of our prayers for you during this most somber Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Jack Kennealy

## Parish Staff Contact Information

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## Stewardship Report

**Thank you for your prayers and support during this difficult time. Our fixed costs remain while Masses and parish events are suspended. We depend on your regular contributions to meet our financial obligations.**



## The Academy of Saint Matthias

**Attention, Parents of Currently Enrolled Students:** We are accepting applications for all grades (Pre-K 3 through Grade 8) for the 2020-2021 school year. The registration fee is \$ 350 per family

**School Tours** are offered on Mondays from 8:30-10:00 AM when school is in session, or by appointment. Please contact the school office at 301-577-9412 to plan your tour.

**2020 Scholarship Competition of Eighth Grade Students:** The Lucinda L. Jasper Scholarship Fund is open to all eighth grade students attending a Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, and who will attend a Catholic high school in the fall. Interested parents and students can find more information and apply online at [www.lljsf.org](http://www.lljsf.org). **The application deadline is March 31, 2020.**

## Family Connection

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form, John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45. Write Jesus' promise from today's Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life.") on a large sheet of white paper. As your family talks about what Jesus means by this promise, decorate Jesus' words with symbols that will remind you of his promise of eternal life. Display this reminder of Jesus' promise in a prominent place in your home and keep it there until Easter. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the [Apostles' Creed](#) or the [Nicene Creed](#).

## Sign Up for FlockNote

To receive timely news, updates, and words of encouragement from our pastor, Father Jack, sign up for Flocknote. You may choose to receive texts, emails, or both. It's easy to sign-up. Go to:  
<https://app.flocknote.com/find>.

## Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our hope is that the restriction of the public celebration of the Mass will be for a very limited period. For the time being, it is necessary to keep in mind the common good of public health and the importance of doing our part in preventing the spread of the coronavirus by avoiding large gatherings.

As Catholics, caring for our spiritual and sacramental lives is paramount. Therefore, the Archdiocese is providing the following pastoral guidance and resources for your use:

- The Archdiocesan website has a page with informational resources on coronavirus: <https://adw.org/coronavirus/>.
- At the pastor's discretion, churches may remain open for personal prayer. Please follow all protocols recommended by health professionals about maintaining safe interpersonal distance.
- The Archdiocesan website has resources on how to receive spiritual communion: <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>.
- Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. You can find the readings at [uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org) and a Sunday Gospel reflection on our YouTube channel.
- The Archdiocesan website has audio and written Stations of the Cross: <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>.
- Our archdiocesan Sunday TV Mass is available online: <https://adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass/>.
- Here is a prayer by Pope Francis to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic: <https://adw.org/text-of-popes-prayer-to-mary-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>.
- Pastoral care to the sick will continue incorporating protocols recommended by health professionals.

-Rev. Daniel Carson  
Vicar General and  
Moderator of the Curia

