

What Is Your Hope?

We have hopes for ourselves and others. We hope for good health, for fulfilling work, for settled lives for our children. As valuable as such hope might be, that is not what Peter is referring to in today's second reading. He is talking about religious hope. Not hope *that*, but hope *in*. Not hope that God will give us what we ask, that God will supply what we cannot accomplish, that God will reward our faithfulness. That is also valid hope, but it is still not religious hope.

Genuine religious hope is hope or trust in God. Period. Trust in God when we have no idea what the future might bring. Trust in God when all our best plans crumble before us. Trust in God when we face the terrors of illness and death. This is a trust or hope for which we do not provide God plans to follow so our needs get met as we think they should be. It is a hope that enables us to place ourselves into the hands of God. Period.

This kind of hope asks for nothing and expects everything. Why? Because we are convinced that God loves us with a passion we can't possibly imagine and, therefore, wants what is best for us. This might seem like an impossible hope, but the reading goes on to list reasons to hope. God's love is exemplified by Jesus Christ, who "suffered for sins...that he might lead you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Who could ask for more?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Think of times when you were surprised by God's love.
- ★ Pray for the gift of genuine religious hope.

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17

1 Pt 3:15–18

Jn 14:15–21

Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.

1 PETER 3:15



MIKEL DAMMER/SHUTTERSTOCK

Dear Padre,

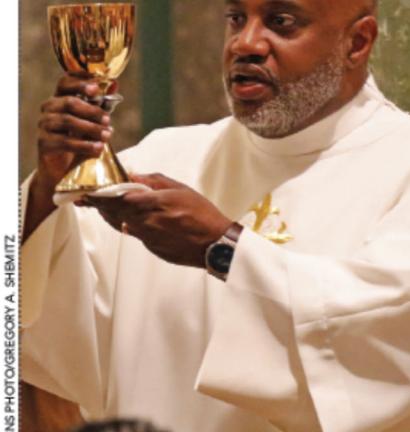
After Mass a friend told me I belonged to “the priesthood of believers.” I’m not a priest! What did she mean?

At baptism, all of us became part of the laity. The word *laity* comes from the Greek word *laos*, which means “people.” The laity are the people of God. As people of God, we all share in the priesthood of Christ. This is why the Church speaks of the “priesthood of all believers,” because when we were baptized we were incorporated into Christ’s priesthood. Each of us is called to exercise our common priesthood within the Church, strengthening and serving each other. The exercise of priesthood means, above all, to serve.

The Church speaks of Jesus as our High Priest, the one who offers himself as the sacrificial animal. Jesus is the priest and victim, offering himself as a sacrifice to God. The priesthood that Jesus exercises is one of self-giving. All those who are called to the priesthood of Christ are called to serve as he did, offering themselves in a spirit of service and love.

This “priesthood of all believers” shouldn’t be confused with the sacrament of Holy Orders, which ordains to the office of bishop, priest, or deacon. These men are called by God and ordained by the Church to exercise the particular ministry of preaching the good news and administering the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. During Mass, the ordained priest represents Christ and also acts on behalf of all the people of God. His sacramental priesthood represents the common priesthood of the whole Church.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



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A WORD FROM Pope Francis

There are so many people waiting for us to go out and meet them and look at them with the tenderness that we have experienced and received from our relationship with God. That is where our power lies: not in our ideals and in our personal projects, but rather in the strength of his mercy.

—ADDRESS TO THE ORDER OF AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLETS,
OCTOBER 20, 2016



Calendar

Monday

MAY 18

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:11–15

Jn 15:26–16:4a

Tuesday

MAY 19

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:22–34

Jn 16:5–11

Wednesday

MAY 20

Easter Weekday

Acts 17:15, 22–18:1

Jn 16:12–15

Thursday

MAY 21

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:1–8

Jn 16:16–20

Friday

MAY 22

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:9–18

Jn 16:20–23

Saturday

MAY 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 18:23–28

Jn 16:23b–28

Sunday

MAY 24

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1–11

Eph 1:17–23

Mt 28:16–20

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Although, per the Bishop's directive that all public Masses are cancelled due to the coronavirus precautions, please know that the Mass intentions are being honored. The Mass will be satisfied by one of the friars as they celebrate Mass in the chapel of the residence.

Saturday, May 16

- 8:00 p.m. + Kristen Outlaw by The Outlaw Family
- 5:00 p.m. + William Patrick Cawley by The Dobraski Family

Sunday, May 17

- 7:00 a.m. - Gary Hobbs by his Wife
- 8:30 a.m. + Philip Grant by Kitty DiPlacido
- 10:00 a.m. - Living and Deceased parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
- 11:30 a.m. + Minh Tran by The Nguyen Family
- 1:00 p.m. + Joseph J. Hager by Mary Diana Szulc
- 3:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass
- 5:00 p.m. + Douglas Wunder by The Russell Family

Monday, May 18

- 6:30 a.m. - Mary Cahalane by The Miller Family
- 8:00 a.m. + Billy Murphy by Len & Betsie Dorian

Tuesday, May 19

- 6:30 a.m. - Teddy Iyob by The Ezenwa Family
- 8:00 a.m. + Fr. Cornelius O'Brien by The Sowder Family

Wednesday, May 20

- 6:30 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Draper, T.O.R. by The Proctor Family
- 8:00 a.m. + Br. F. Edward Coughlin, O.F.M. by The McNulty Family

Thursday, May 21

- 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m. Mass Group by The Proctor Family
- 8:00 a.m. + Jane Boyd by The Sowder Family

Friday, May 22

- 6:30 a.m. + Melissa Dyal by Judy & Vic Kelley
- 8:00 a.m. + Lorraine Marquez by Pat & Patti Lynch

Saturday, May 23

- 8:00 p.m. + Fred & Rose Lane by Fred & Becky Lane
- 5:00 p.m. + Joseph Hager by Stan & Betti Ogozalek

Sunday, May 24

- 7:00 a.m. - Estefana Monsales by Hope Chi
- 8:30 a.m. + Stephen Riska by The Harrigan Family
- 10:00 a.m. - Melissa Keppel by Tom & Jennifer
- 11:30 a.m. - Living and Deceased parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
- 1:00 p.m. + Jack Herber by Joe Boyle
- 3:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass
- 5:00 p.m. + Joan Harrington by The Klizas Family

"I am the light of the world."

John 8:12



Light a candle for your prayer intention

It can also mean a prayer. Lighting a votive candle can therefore include one or more of these intentions. Catholics light candles to pray for their deceased loves ones and the sick, for the health and welfare of family and friends, and the intentions and needs of all in the world. Lighting a candle can also be a way of strengthening one's prayer intention and expressing one's support for the person for whom one is praying.

Candles have long been part of Catholic churches and liturgical services. There is the Paschal or Easter candle which remains lit each year from Easter to Ascension. In addition, each day at Mass we usually see between two and six candles lit on the altar.

There is also the candle that is kept burning by the tabernacle to indicate the Sacramental Presence of Christ even when no Mass is being said. As parishioners, you also have the opportunity to have a candle lit for your intention in front of the Crucifix and/or the statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.

Finally, in lighting a candle we partake in the powerful life-giving force of Jesus' words (John 8:12):

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**Praying for our
SICK & SHUT-IN and THOSE WHO ARE HEALING &
CONVALESCING**



We encourage a donation of \$1 - \$4 for the lighting of a candle.



The Parish staff wishes to thank the following parish ministries:

We thank our **parishioners** for their gift of faith, embrace of the Gospel of Joy, “works of mercy,” and support of the parish. As we celebrate the Easter Season, know that you are remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

We thank our **parishioners** who joined us for the weekday and weekend Masses via live stream. Be assured of our prayers for you and your family!

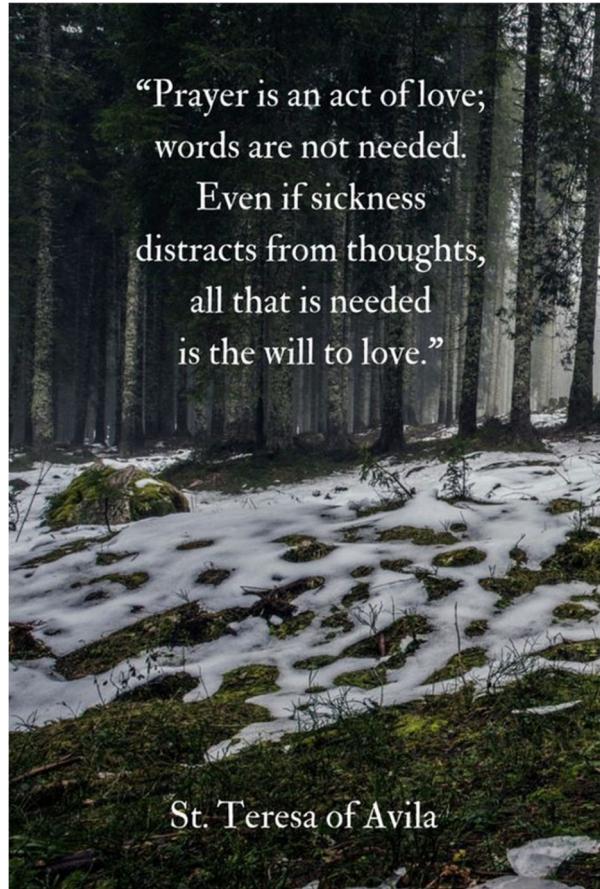
We thank our **parishioners** for their **support of the Sunday offertory via the use of Church envelopes and Faith Direct**. Know that we are grateful for your prayers and support.

We thank our **parishioners** who have generously made pledges and donations to the **Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) 2020**. Your pledges and donations are another way which we live out and support the “works of mercy.” **The parish has surpassed its goal – 103% with 17% participation**. “Steadfast in faith and joyful in hope.”

We thank our **parishioners who have offered their time and talents to assist our parishioners and our neighbors in need**; local organizations – LINK and Embry Rucker Center; St. Lucy Project; Respect Life ministries; etc... Pope Francis shared: “let us be lights of hope! Let us maintain a positive outlook on reality.”

We thank our **parishioners who continue to participate in the parish ministries in new and creative ways**. From virtual meetings and gatherings to telephone visits. We look forward to the day we gather for Eucharist as a community and share our ministries once again.

THANKS TO
OUR
SPONSOR
OF THE WEEK



St. Joseph Catholic Church
Vacation Bible School (VBS)
June 22nd - 26th (9AM- 12Noon)
CANCELLED

These are indeed unprecedeted times. With the church being closed, school being closed, all school and church activities canceled, and so many uncertainties, it is with heartfelt disappointment that we felt we needed to make the decision about our summer Vacation Bible School (VBS). It is with sadness and regret that we have decided to cancel VBS for this year! Please know we will keep you all in prayer. We hope to see you in the summer of 2021!

*Let nothing disturb you,
let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices.
St. Teresa of Avila*

St. Joseph Catholic Church

PAC Virtual Zoom Meeting

Executive Summary

April 16, 2020 7:00 PM

Opening Prayer – Fr. Tom

Agenda Items:

General update on Friars, Deacons and office staff – all friars are in good health – Fr. Pat, Br. Rufino and Br. Zack have been staying in DC and are healthy as well. Office staff is healthy and most are working from home and essential personnel are alternating days in the office and working from home each week.

Sacraments under COVID-19, generally – Administration and availability of sacraments have been adjusted. Funeral rites have generally been at the funeral homes with 10 or less people attending. In general, Baptisms are being delayed, or limited to 6 people present limit including the Priest. Confirmations and 1st Communions are on hold; the Bishop will advise on rescheduling once the restrictions are lifted. Baptisms and Confirmations for RCIA candidates are also on hold. Once the restrictions are lifted we will work on rescheduling these events. Confessions are being heard upon request and appointment.

Ministries to Parishioners in need – we currently have about 15 parishioners who have volunteered to help any parishioners in need. Only 2 parishioners have asked for help so far and we have been able to meet their needs. Fr. Tom has been reaching out to many parishioners, especially those who may need assistance, by phone, email or written notes.

Financial impact – We currently have 57% of parishioners using Faith Direct vs. 43% who use envelopes. Sunday Mass collections were down 38% in March and 53% for the first 2 weeks of April. There has been no decrease in Faith Direct. We are cutting costs via trash and landscaping reductions. We are working on applying for a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the Small Business Administration.

BLA – We have reached 96% of our goal with 17% participation so that is great.

St. Joseph Catholic School – At the current time they are on Easter Break and have been doing e-learning since day two of the school closing. Families have been extremely supportive and the teachers have done an

PAC Virtual Zoom Meeting Cont'd...

amazing job. Children are currently being graded on their participation and teachers will continue holding classes throughout the remainder of the school year using Zoom and Google video classes. Kindergarten and 1st grade classes are taped with story time being live. Other classes are Live and Fr. Tom and Fr. David have done some lessons for the school as well. Would like to do an 8th grade graduation once restrictions are lifted, but will have to assess later.

Religious Education – 1st Communion and Confirmation are expected to do their classes online so they can receive their sacraments when they are rescheduled. Other classes have the ability to do the classes online but participation has been low so far. Since Confirmation classes were cancelled just two weeks away from the scheduled Confirmation, students were essentially all prepared.

Spanish Community – They cannot wait to get back to normal life. Many are out of jobs and are low on food. Elizabeth has given them the number of Link and Fr. Tom suggested St. Lucy as well. We will be scheduling a St. Lucy drop off in the parking lot for food in the next month or two. It will be in the bulletin. Elizabeth has been reaching out to the Spanish coordinators about masses in Spanish and English and Stations of the Cross in Spanish as well. She is reaching them via text and email.

Planning ahead for re-opening – We have purchased a Clorox 360 machine that the CDC recommended so we will be using that to disinfect each classroom and have already used the machine on the meeting rooms. The church is closed at 12 noon Monday through Friday so we can do the proper cleaning in the church and some maintenance items that need to be done. As for re-opening we will follow the guidelines of the Governor of VA and the Bishop.

We received 2 emails that were forwarded to Fr. Tom.

Next Meeting – May 21, 2020 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

Closing Prayer – Fr. Tom

8:25 p.m. meeting adjourned



**ST. LUCY 'NO CONTACT'
FOOD COLLECTION'**

St. Joseph Catholic Church parking lot

Friday, June 5, 2020 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We are in the midst of an unprecedented period of time in our world. A pandemic has attacked our country, cancelled our Masses, closed our schools, shuttered businesses and caused depression level unemployment. More people are food challenged than ever. If you are one of those who are food challenged, we are praying for you. Although, there are positive signs pointing towards some relief from this shutdown, we still have to endure challenges before the end of this period of trial.

If you have food you can share, The St. Lucy Project is there to help you donate food to those in need within our diocese

A special St. Lucy Food Collection will take place in the **St. Joseph Catholic Church parking lot** on **FRIDAY JUNE 5** between the hours of 10 AM - 2 PM.

This will be a “no contact” collection. If you would like to participate in this donation, please follow the steps below:

- **Place your food donations in the trunk or hatchback of your vehicle.**
- **Enter the church parking lot through the Peachtree Street entrance.**
- **The St. Lucy Truck will be positioned near the school gymnasium.**

St. Lucy Cont'd...

Volunteers will direct traffic towards the truck.

Once near the truck, volunteers will take your food donation from your vehicle.

No need to get out of your car. No reusable bags. Plastic or paper is fine.

Volunteers will direct you to the exit at Franciscan Way.

St. Joseph's parishioners have always been staunch supporters of the St. Lucy Project. We thank you in advance for your help and support of this most gracious act of mercy.



**Assisting our sisters and brothers in the
community.**

Wish List of Donations —Jelly, Peanut Butter, Hearty Soups, Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, etc.), Canned Corn, Canned Carrots, Canned Peas, Canned Potatoes, Pasta Sauce, Canned Tomatoes (diced type), Canned pasta (like Chef Boyardee), Boxed Potatoes, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Snack items for kids, Baking products (oil, flour, sugar, etc.), Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap), Toilet paper and paper towels. (2020, LINK)

Please visit the LINK website for further information: <https://www.linkagainsthunger.org/>

A special thanks to our parishioners who volunteer at LINK and our parishioners who generously support LINK with their prayers and donations.

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WHY IS IT?

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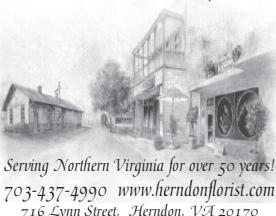
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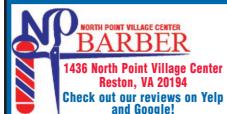
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