

**HIS WORD TODAY**  
*by Rev. William J. Reilly*

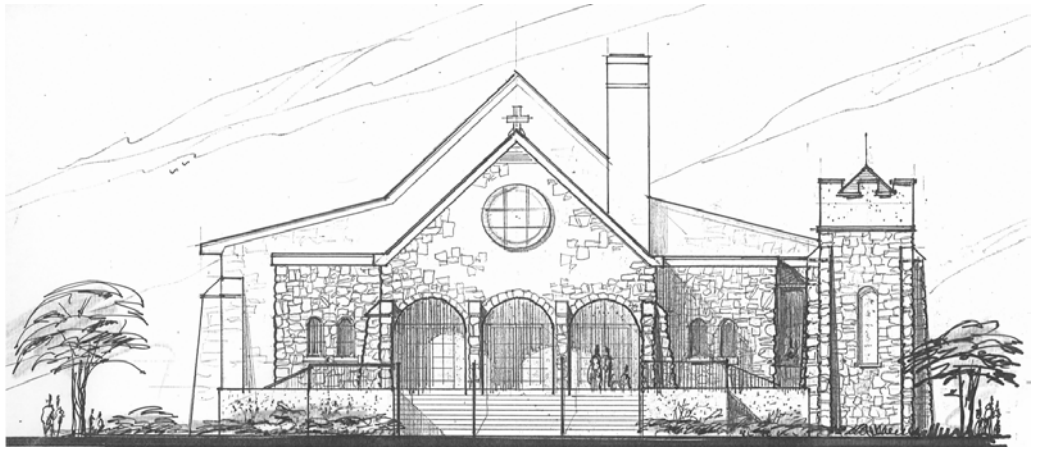
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 29, 2020**

“I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you in your own land, thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord... If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead, will give life to your mortal bodies also, through the spirit dwelling in you.”

Jesus told us He came that we might have life, and have it in its fullness. The pending celebration of Holy Week and the Paschal Mystery are the steps He took to restore us to that life. As He brought Lazarus from death, He wishes us to be renewed. His promises never fail and He wishes to give life to our mortal bodies. What is this life? It is the life of grace, the very life of God, given as a gift, and accepted.

Is the spirit of God dwelling in you? Do you want Him to restore you to life in abundance? Perhaps the Sacrament of Reconciliation, confession, are the steps we can take to be sure that His gift is in us.

We never learned how Lazarus felt when Jesus touched him. How will you feel?




# CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

## STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant  
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon  
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate  
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry  
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ  
Mr. Denis Campbell, Trustee  
Mr. Gregory W. Boyle, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL .....	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY .....	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287 FAX .....	732-528-1901
CONVENT .....	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE .....	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY .....			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		st.denis@verizon.net	
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org	
WEB PAGE ADDRESS .....		http://www.churchofstdenis.org	

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church  
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church  
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation)- St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM- St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel  
Holy Days: Evening before: 7:00 PM & day of: 7:30 AM & 7:00 PM-St. Denis Church

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Every Saturday from 3:30 until 4:15 PM - St. Denis Church. Also by appointment.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS:** Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

**BAPTISM:** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12:15 pm at St. Denis Church. Parents must complete the required preparation with the priest or deacon and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

**MARRIAGE:** Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

**CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:** At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

**CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS** – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK-** Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis). You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.

THIS WEEK'S  
**MASS**  
INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 28, 2020**

8:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
8:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
8:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
4:30 pm Jacob Pilot by the Pilot & Macho Family  
4:30 pm Cecelia Witczak (3rd Anniversary) by her Daughter  
4:30 pm Dolores DeSordi by Jeanne & Jerry Kaplan

**Sunday, March 29, 2020**

8:00 am Rose T. Nugent by Eileen & Mike Mahoney  
8:00 am Joan Doolan by Eileen & Mike Mahoney  
8:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
9:30 am Salle Molinski by the Wilkens Family  
9:30 am Marie Guida by Sandi & Jim Freeman  
9:30 am Frank G. Adams by Marianne Kerrigan  
10:00 am For the People of the Parish  
11:00 am Guy Christopher Luddeke by Laurie & Richard Hunt  
11:00 am Jay Barszcz by Susan DeVita  
11:00 am Kieran Cantlon by the Cranley Family

**Monday, March 30, 2020**

7:30 am Andrew Mercurio by Sal & Lorraine Stagliano  
7:30 am Esther Dalton by Dennis & Maureen O'Neill  
7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020**

7:30 am John Knight by Sharon Knight  
7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
7:30 am George & Agnes Kohrmann by Richard  
7:30 am Rita Campbell by Betsy & Jim Rice

**Thursday, April 2, 2020**

No Mass

**Friday, April 3, 2020**

7:30 am Donal & Dorothy Fox by John & Ellie Fox  
7:30 am Matthew James Bowen by Walt Weaver  
7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**

8:30 am Tom McBarron by his Family  
8:30 am Jean Bradley by Thomas Rogers & Family  
8:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
4:30 pm Beatrice Iden by the Pangaro Family  
4:30 pm Mark Strucich by his Parent  
4:30 pm Dolores DeSordi by Debbie & Alan Smith

**Sunday, April 5, 2020-Palm Sunday**

8:00 am Theodore & Lillian Prospero by their Son  
8:00 am Mae Parcaro (34th Anniversary) by Mona & John Kirk  
8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
9:30 am Joseph Taglieri by Luann & John Quigley  
9:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
9:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
10:00 am Adele Blewitt by Eileen & Jim Rochford  
10:00 am Elizabeth A. Walters by Lorraine & George Stanley  
10:00 am Paul Voorhees by Rita Badaracco  
11:00 am For the People of the Parish

**MOVING?** Please inform the rectory office if you are moving out of the area or if you have a change of address, so the envelope company can be notified. Thank you!

**DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE WEBSITE-** Please visit the Respect Life website of the Diocese of Trenton at [respectlife-today.org](http://respectlife-today.org). You will obtain important information concerning respect life issues in our diocese and our world.



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Stella Thompson, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Mary Jane Schaaf, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Ken Kleinlein, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Lucy Falco, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Joan Tumbas, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Patricia Blumenstock, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, John Najar, Tina Pilot, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambrone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Anita McCudden, Catherine Kelleher, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Kathy Kleinlein, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Victoria Margadonna, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Kathy Larkin, Gordon Justin, John Jonason, Estelle Jonason, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, John Fossani, Paul Borden, Mary Daidone, Donna Morgan, Jonathan Miller, Dennis Datillo, Bill Koch, Jennifer Pindar, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Randy Farmer, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, John Gondek, Lois Borton, James Andrew Lintner, the Pilots, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.

**DOWNEY SIDE-** Do you want to make a difference in the life of a foster care child? If so, apply to adopt through Downey Side and give foster care children a permanent home. The children are school-age and up. For information contact Sister Elizabeth Engel at 732-359-8434 or email your interest to [sister.engel@gmail.com](mailto:sister.engel@gmail.com).

**DOVES-** Are you a teen with the desire to serve others while making new friends and enriching your faith? Or, an adult willing to **SPONSOR** a life-changing week for a deserving student? Why not join the DOVES on their summer 2020 service trip. Registration is open for “GIVING BACK TO THE GARDEN STATE” in North Haledon, N.J. from July 19 -July 24, 2020. Organized through Catholic HEART Work Camp ([heartworkcamp.com](http://heartworkcamp.com)), this fourteenth annual trip is open to 8th graders or older in Fall 2020. Cost is \$430, including meals, lodging, transportation and free day activity. For more information, contact Ellen Easton, 732-528-8038 or email [eeaston1@verizon.net](mailto:eeaston1@verizon.net).

**CAREGIVER VOLUNTEERS OF CENTRAL JERSEY INTERFAITH COALITION** helping older members of our community and congregation. There are many older people living in our parish and neighborhood who are in need of a little help to continue living with dignity and independence at home. If you can spare just a few hours a week, you can be involved in this ministry. For information contact the Caregiver Office at [www.caregivervolunteers.org](http://www.caregivervolunteers.org) or 732-876-3900.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES, MONMOUTH COUNTY REACHES OUT!** Our Outreach Services support local families, children, and singles in need. We make holiday gifts and baskets, distribute back-to-school supplies, and organize coat and food drives. Your time and talent, great or small, can make a difference. For more information call Mary Lee at 732-241-5841 or email Mary at [mlee502@gmail.com](mailto:mlee502@gmail.com).

**CATHOLIC STUDENT ATHLETE RADIO PROGRAM** “Just Be You”: A new radio program on Domestic Church Media Radio. Tune in each week as they showcase a new student athlete from across the diocese. Learn how they are making a difference in their community and listen as they discuss how their faith helps them as disciples of Christ. Visit [Domesticchurchmedia.org](http://Domesticchurchmedia.org).

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AT HOME AND ABROAD?** Text the word “freedom” to 377377 for updates from the bishops on current threats to religious liberty. Please visit [www.usccb.org/freedom](http://www.usccb.org/freedom) for more information on how you can take action to protect religious liberty.



especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy MIDN Nora N. Honrath, Army Captain Christopher Cauda, Army Captain Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Captain David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Army Major Michael Potoczniak, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill, USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith-Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmerman U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Robert Halmi, U.S. Army, Corporal Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC.

**INVITATION TO PRAYER FROM**

**BISHOP O’CONNELL**-As we all face what has become a grave and growing health risk, it is important for all the Catholic faithful to “persevere in hardship and keep praying regularly (Romans 12:12).” As Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton, I invite all the Catholic faithful to join with me in prayer:



*O Mary, loving Mother, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, who at the Cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm.*

*You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.*

*Be present to all those suffering from coronavirus and to those who care for them: families, friends, neighbors, doctors, nurses, staff, government officials, pastors, priests and all who seek to do God’s will. Bring comfort and calm to the elderly, to those at risk and to all who are afraid. Be for us all a beacon of hope, lighting our path once more to the heart of your beloved Son, the Divine Healer and Health of the Sick.*

*Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

**THE MONITOR MAGAZINE- HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED YET?** The Monitor Magazine and Trenton-Monitor.com offer food for your faith journey throughout the year. Subscriptions options start at \$15 for a year of full digital access...Or, for \$25, get full digital access and home delivery of the magazine. Order your subscription via a convenient and secure web page... [dioceseoftrenton.org/monitor-subscriptions](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/monitor-subscriptions). For assistance call 609-406-7131 or visit

**ONLINE GIVING-** To help support our parish more easily we offer **Online Giving!** For additional information or to sign up, go to our parish Website [www.churchofstedenis.org](http://www.churchofstedenis.org) and click on “Online Giving”. For those who wish to use the online giving service but do not have Internet access, please contact the Parish Office at 732-223-0287 for assistance.

*Weekly Collection*

<b>March 15, 2020</b>	
Regular Collection-	\$9,532.00
Average Envelope Donation-	\$39.24
<b>March 15, 2020</b>	
2nd Collection (Debt)-	\$3,359.00
Average Envelope Donation-	\$17.98

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**

**PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES**— A joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities provides licensed professionals for short term counseling (up to 6 sessions) to parishioners dealing with difficult issues, for example, job-stress, family concerns and bereavement. Contact your pastor for additional information and referral. The fee is \$90 per session, but, if needed, financial assistance is available through the Diocese of Trenton Parish Counseling Services.

**HELP SUPPORT HARBOR HOUSE-A SAFE HAVEN FOR YOUTH-** Harbor House, an agency that helps homeless and runaway youth is supported largely by the Ride for New Beginnings, a 3-day bike ride June 26 through June 28. Donations are being accepted in support of Harbor House. See <http://www.oceansharborhouse.org/event/annual-bike-ride/> Thank you for your support!

**CATHOLIC RADIO-** Tune into 89.3 FM to hear the Gospel message, live call-in shows, devotions, speakers, inspirational music and more. WFJS 89.3 FM Catholic Radio is an EWTN affiliate reaching Monmouth and parts of Ocean Counties. Listen on-line at [www.DomesticChurchMedia.org](http://www.DomesticChurchMedia.org). Free apps are on your iPhone and Blackberry. Call or write for your FREE Program Guide: WFJS PO Box 7509 Trenton 08628.

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP!** Monthly Recurring Gifts—Making a monthly recurring gift in any amount is a simple and sustainable way to impact the future of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. We are asking that you consider making a monthly recurring gift in the range of \$10.00-\$25.00. If many folks commit to this campaign, a huge difference will occur. Online donations can be made at [www.olmcapnj.org](http://www.olmcapnj.org) or monthly donations can be sent to: Mount Carmel School 1220 First Ave. Asbury Park, NJ 07712 Attn: Sr. Jude Boyce, SSJ

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL VINCENT'S LEGACY**— Launched by the Diocese in late 2016, Vincent's Legacy collects quality gently used furniture and household items to provide to those in need. Legacy volunteers arrange to view, pickup, clean and deliver donated items. Originally focused on Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Vincent's Legacy has expanded throughout the Trenton Diocese. If you have furniture or household goods to donate, please contact Vincent's Legacy volunteers at [furniture@svdptrenton.org](mailto:furniture@svdptrenton.org). If you are able to help, visit the website or call 609-557-7837.



**ST DENIS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
FOOD PANTRY 732-223-1383**

Msgr. O'Connor Hall (lower level of church)

**EVERY TUESDAY: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**&**

**3RD & 4TH SATURDAY: 10:00 AM-NOON**

It is our intention to be open during our usual times as long as we have food to distribute. At the moment we are fully stocked thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and community members. Please understand that we may not have all of our usual products available at this time. In an attempt to keep everyone as safe as possible, we have changed some of our procedures and would appreciate your patience as we work out the best and most efficient way to serve you. If we can be of assistance to you, please call our HOTLINE 732-223-1383 and leave a message. Someone will call you back.

**2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

If you wish to receive a statement of your 2019 contributions, please complete and return this form to the rectory by way of the collection basket or by mail (attention: Betsy). You may also email your request to [st.denis@verizon.net](mailto:st.denis@verizon.net) or call 732-223-0287.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

(if you would like to receive your statement via email)

**CHAMPION FOR LIFE NOMINATIONS-** Do you know an individual or family who is strongly Pro-Life and lives in support of the miracle of life? Nominations are currently being accepted from parishioners for this year's annual *Champion for Life Award*. Please send nominations to Mary Reilly at [Mary33angels@aolcom](mailto:Mary33angels@aolcom) by 4/15/20.

**THE SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



St. Vincent de Paul, the patron saint of our Society, never wrote a book about his spiritual teachings. We find the living voice of the saint in his letters and conferences-conferences like ours at St. Denis in which he trained his followers for the mission of service to the poor. The two fundamental sources of his teachings were the Gospel and life. He wanted his followers to put the whole of the Gospel into the whole of their lives, and he never tired of deepening both with the faith that God had put into his heart. This is why all that Vincent says, as he speaks to us from almost 400 years ago, has the simplicity of our everyday life as well as the penetrating Word of God.

The reflections in our weekly bulletin are therefore offered to all who may strive to serve the poor in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul. They may encourage us to “have ears to hear the cry of the poor”, to “have eyes to seek and find the forgotten and deprived”, and to “have hearts that bring God’s love to the poor” through generosity and love. The Holy Spirit wants to make us advocates of God’s presence to bring new life to others-especially those who do not know the love of God in their lives.

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.

To All the Faithful of the Diocese of Trenton,

The Holy See has issued a decree regarding the celebrations of the upcoming Palm Sunday and Holy Week/Easter for implementation by diocesan bishops throughout the world. I have issued [a decree for the Diocese of Trenton](#), implementing the directives of the Holy See.

These unprecedented measures have been deemed necessary, given the best information we have received from federal, state and local public health authorities.

Although COVID-19 has dramatically affected all of us in so many ways, I want to reach out to you with pastoral care and affection. Our public Holy Week and Easter celebrations will be quite different this year but the underlying mysteries of our faith in the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection have not changed. They continue to be the source and support of our faith and we should celebrate them this year, even though in a different way.

Permit me please, as your Bishop, to encourage you to use all the means available to sustain and nurture your faith. Follow Masses and other liturgical celebrations reverently on-line or via televised broadcast. Read the liturgical readings in your missals, other publications or on the internet. Pray your devotions privately or as families, especially the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and other beloved traditional devotions. Where it is possible and permitted, stop in church to visit and adore the Blessed Sacrament. If this is not possible, make a spiritual communion at home or wherever you may be. The great saints in our Church's history followed that practice. Keep your faith and prayer life alive until things in our public practice of the faith is restored.

Hold fast to your connection with your faith family. Check in regularly with your parish's website and social media. Know that our Chancery team will continue to keep you informed and share spiritual resources through our diocesan websites – [DioceseofTrenton.org](#) and [TrentonMonitor.com](#) – as well as on our social media sites.

Please stay as calm as possible. Faith and patience are good companions in the spiritual life. They become the source of charity in our genuine witness to the Lord Jesus and his Good News. Be kind and attentive to others — your own families, neighbors, friends and those who are elderly and alone. Reach out in the best ways possible. Be grateful to/for those who are working to address COVID-19 in so many different venues. Be generous. The pandemic is and will continue take its toll on families and on our parishes. Keep the needs of others in mind.

Above all, please remember that the Lord Jesus is in our midst, now and always. As he touched lives, healed the sick and ministered with love and merciful compassion throughout the Gospels, know that he will continue to do so for us. Have no doubt about that. "Be joyful in hope, persevere in hardship, keep praying regularly (Romans 12:12)."

God bless us all and protect us. O Mary, Mother of Divine Love, protect and lead us to the heart of your Son.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Bishop O'Connell

### **A Message from Fr. Bill**

My brothers and sisters, we are preparing this bulletin Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> anticipating a Stay at Home mandate from the governor, and I just received that mandate. We will try to continue to update you on our website and Facebook page, but a bulletin may be more difficult to assemble.

Unfortunately, things develop at lightning pace with all of this, and even in one day, new mandates are given. I will tell you that as of now the following has been needed to put in place.

1. There will not be public masses till well after Easter. We will post on our website when our next mass will be, when we know – please God, soon. Please know I celebrate mass for you all each day and Fr. Joe and Fr. Lew as well. All our mass intentions are being prayed for. I also offer my personal communion for all who pray for spiritual Communion. As our bishop has said, this is the biggest sacrifice a Catholic can make, and we are being asked to make this sacrifice. I ask you to please join together in spiritual Communion each day.

2. There is to be no funerals or weddings. I will conduct burial rights at the cemetery with two family members only. Please know that we will schedule funeral masses as soon as we are able. And please know that I will make sure a mass is said for the deceased as soon as possible utilizing myself, Fr. Joe and Fr. Lew.

3. The church will not be able to be open. As you know the Church has had to be locked when not in use since after the vandalism and other issues. We did open the Church for private prayer for anyone who requested it, but even now, we must suspend this. Recall the words of Jesus: when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

We will be utilizing the Facebook page more often than ever before, thank you Jane for all your work, to keep you uplifted with great resources to make a personal retreat out of this difficult situation. Recall the scripture: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Our Bishop reminds us of the great quote: remembering that "nothing can separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39)."

Call to mind and pray with me the beautiful and consoling words of the psalmist in Psalm 46:

***God is our refuge and our strength,  
an ever-present help in distress.***

***Thus we do not fear***, though earth be shaken  
and mountains quake to the depths of the sea,

Though its waters rage and foam  
and mountains totter at its surging.

Streams of the river gladden the city of God,  
the holy dwelling of the Most High.

God is in its midst; it shall not be shaken;

God will help it at break of day.

... The LORD of hosts is with us;

our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

Come and see the works of the LORD,

who has done fearsome deeds on earth;

Who stops wars to the ends of the earth,

breaks the bow, splinters the spear,

and burns the shields with fire;

***"Be still and know that I am God!"***

... The LORD of hosts is with us;

our stronghold is the God of Jacob.

**A PRAYER FOR THIS TIME**  
(submitted by a parishioner)

*God our Father, we come to you in our need. We ask your protection against the Coronavirus that has claimed lives and has affected so many.*

*We pray, for your grace for the people who are tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and of stemming the tide of its transmission.*

*We pray, that you guide the minds and hands of medical personal that they may care for the sick with competence and compassion and that they may find a cure for this pandemic.*

*We pray for those afflicted in this country and all over the world, especially those with serious infections, that they be comforted in their suffering and that they may soon be restored to full health.*

*We pray for government agencies and private enterprises, that they may work together for the common good.*

*We pray that we who are in good health may reach out with prayers, action, or monetary assistance to those in need during this pandemic.*

*Grant this though our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen*

**CURSILLO** is all about building long-term Christ-centered relationships with God and others through prayer and a focus on authentic Christian living. For information please contact trentoncursillo@gmail.com or 609-396-8447. ext. 14.

**BUILDING FAMILY BONDS DURING COVID-19**-Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19, families have been faced with the challenge of establishing a 'new normal' in their daily lives. The disruptions that families experience with the closure of schools, child care centers, workplaces, as well as many other services, can be a cause of tension and distress. Moreover, churches have suspended the public celebration of Masses and other liturgical services for the faithful. Whatever your family situation, there is an opportunity to find grace in the midst of this crisis. Families can use this time as an invitation to focus on their relationships and on building strong family bonds.

Here are a few suggestions on how to use this time well:

Pray Together-

Pray the Rosary – Try starting with just one decade and offer it for an intention important to your family.

Pray the Stations of the Cross – you can do this at home with a simple cross or crucifix.

Use the meditations on the USCCB website Consider praying with the daily Mass readings as a family.

Celebrate and observe Sunday with a livestreamed Mass – check listings on your diocesan website or EWTN.com.

Build and Fortify Your Relationships-

Set aside time to pray with your spouse

Be Kind – Pope Francis' resolutions for couples are a great place to start.

Write a mission statement for your family.

Have fun together

Do something fun as a family – bake a pie, bring out a board game, get creative with craft supplies, or take a nature walk at a nearby trail.

Plan a celebration for feast days.

Don't stop date nights – here are some suggestions, most of which can be done at home:

Start building a family photo album or photobook. Organize your photos and plan some home videos.

**INVOCATION OF THE HOLY HELPERS**

As we are St. Denis Parish, we have the honor and privilege of having St. Denis as our patron saint and intercessor. St. Denis was invoked along with thirteen other saints during the period of the Black Death that devastated Europe from 1346-1349 they later would be known as the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Let us pray, asking the Holy Helpers to intercede for all people at this time:



**FOURTEEN HOLY HELPERS**, who served God in humility and confidence on earth and are now in the enjoyment of His beatific vision in Heaven; because thou persevered till death thou gained the crown of eternal life. Remember the dangers that surround us in this vale of tears, and intercede for us in all our needs and adversities. *Amen*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**– Due to the conditions at the time of this bulletin, please check our parish regularly for updates. **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

First Communions will be rescheduled.

Confirmation interviews will be rescheduled. At this time we do not know if Confirmation itself will be rescheduled.

**ALL WEDDINGS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH AND APRIL WILL BE POSTPONED.**

Please pray for all people who are affected by these changes.

**FOR YOUR MARRIAGE**- Check out this great resource for you and your family during this time: [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) and there is a specific blogpost at <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/blogs/family-life-in-a-pandemic/>

**HOME DEVOTION**– Please visit AscensionPress.com for special resources and events to help Catholics with home devotions throughout the coming weeks.

**PRAY THE ROSARY**– Join over 50,000 fellow Catholics and pray the rosary LIVE on Ascension's Facebook page... Daily at 4:00 pm.

**DON'T FORGET ST. DENIS PARISH WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE** - AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. **Instructions to support St. Denis: Go to smile.amazon.com Choose your charity: Church of St. Denis, Manasquan Click on the box marked "yes". You must start at smile.amazon.com so that the charity gets donations. Then click on the "start shopping" button. It's that simple!**

**OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT**

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the Diocesan Abuse Hotline: **888-296-2965**

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