

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

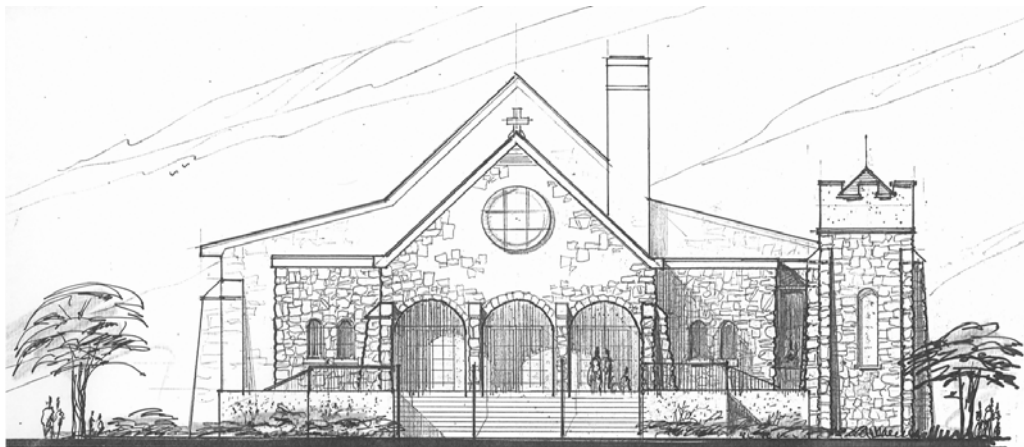
Third Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 2020

“With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to one another ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?’ So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying ‘The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon.’”

A beautiful book entitled ‘Walking with Jesus’ consists of the teachings of Pope Francis. It covers a wide variety of topics, enabling the reader to listen, learn and find Jesus present in so many ways today.

The walk of the two disciples to Emmaus was so special. Cleopas, was named by Luke, and perhaps I am the second person, now joined by Jesus. He continues to accompany us, but sometimes our eyes are closed or we are unable to recognize Him. He walks with us as we meet the poor. He talks with us, as we listen to the hurts of victims of injustice. He calls us to remedy unjust conditions as racism, xenophobia or discrimination.

My task today is to open my eyes to the reality of my world. Where can I find the Lord and how do I treat Him? The bottom line for those who were walking is that He revealed Himself in the breaking of the bread. He reveals Himself to us today in the same action of the Eucharist. ‘Lord I want to see.’




# 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.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, April 25, 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 Mark Struncius by the Family  
 4:30 pm Leo Cunningham by the Family  
 4:30 pm Margaret & Orville Meslar by the Family

### Sunday, April 26, 2020

8:00 am Intentions of George Leonard by Betsy & Jim Rice  
 8:00 am Commander Matthew Bowen, USN by A Friend  
 8:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish  
 10:00 am Ardrij Jaworiw by his Daughter  
 10:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by Family  
 10:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 11:00 am Derry Quigley by Chris & Ed Mutch  
 11:00 am Thomas Kane by Tom & Pat Coyle  
 11:00 am Paul Voorhees by Betsy Rice

### Monday, April 27, 2020

7:30 am Joseph Justinic by Ellie & John Fox  
 7:30 am Nada Justinic by Ellie & John Fox  
 7:30 am Frances Pilot by Barbara Liggett

### Tuesday, April 28, 2020

7:30 am Marie Bernice Kile by the Family  
 7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli  
 7:30 am Nora Grogan by St. Denis Parish

### Wednesday, April 29, 2020

7:30 am Anna M. Hoblitzell by the Family  
 7:30 am Kathleen McCabe by James McCabe  
 7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family

### Thursday, April 30, 2020

No Mass

### Friday, May 1, 2020

7:30 am Nada Justinic by the Family  
 7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

### Saturday, May 2, 2020

8:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 8:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 8:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 4:30 pm Leo Cunningham by the Family  
 4:30 pm Marilyn Bialas by the Family  
 4:30 pm Beatrice Bonner by the Family

### Sunday, May 3, 2020

8:00 am Eleanor Stankunas by Deacon Gary  
 8:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 8:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am Stephen DePaul by Ronald & Debra Reba  
 9:30 am Christopher Connolly by the O'Donnell Family  
 9:30 am Harry Kegelmann by Maureen & Jim Lampariello  
 10:00 am For the People of the Parish  
 11:00 am Consuelo Iraheta by Lucia & Joseph Nitti  
 11:00 am Toby Santoro by Ralph & Carol Cabrera  
 11:00 am Roy Beaudoin by Pat & Patrick Trezza

**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.

**HOME DEVOTION-** Please visit [AscensionPress.com](http://AscensionPress.com) for special resources and events to help Catholics with home devotions throughout the coming weeks.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED** especially Paul Gately, Anna Teresa Honeycutt, Donn Ruotolo Alice Moore and Evelyn White.



**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!



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrigh, 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, Francine Goodman, Sandy Heitner, Randy Farmer, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, John Gondek, Lois Borton, Roddy Pilot, the Borgias, the Pilots, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.



**MOTHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS**  
 May 10th is Mother's Day. Beginning on Mother's Day weekend and continuing for the next two days, we will have special Masses in honor of all our mothers, both living and deceased. To include a name or names in the Mass intentions, please mail your intentions with your donation to: St. Denis Rectory 90 Union Ave. Manasquan 08736. If you would like a special Mother's Day card for a living mother, please call the office during regular business hours, so a card/cards can be left on the rectory porch for you. All intentions should be received by the office staff no later than Friday, May 8th. They will then be placed on the altar and the intentions will be remembered at the Mother's Day Masses.

**MASS INTENTIONS** for the weekend, as well as the coming week, can be found on our parish website [www.churchofstdenis.org](http://www.churchofstdenis.org) on Friday mornings.

**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/>

**PROJECT CHILD FIND** is a free referral service to use if you have concerns about your child's development (ages birth-2 years). For more information about Special Education in NJ visit [www.nj.gov/education/special](http://www.nj.gov/education/special). Call 1-800-322-8174. All calls are confidential and toll-free.

**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).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-** Can you spare an hour a week to help our community's homebound senior citizens? Interfaith Neighbors is currently in need of volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels one morning per week. Volunteers can choose to do one day per week or just substitute when needed. We are also in need of office help (answering phones/taking referrals). For more information, please contact Beth at Interfaith Neighbors at 732-775-0525 ext. 227.



our military, 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.

**EASTER FLOWERS** were donated in memory/honor of: Peter & Anna Lengyel, Peter Gibbs, Oscar Gibbs, Anna Pichalski, and William E. Covey. Other names appeared in last week's bulletin. We thank all those who donated to our annual Easter Flower collection. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

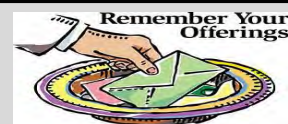


**VIRTUAL NJ AIDS WALK MAY 1-3, 2020**—Please support The Center in Asbury Park by participating in the Virtual NJ AIDS Walk. What is a virtual walk? It is up to you. Participants will be provided with a virtual walk media kit containing tools needed for their participation. You are encouraged to create ads, share your own posters, video messages, photos and whatever crazy stuff you come up with! Keep social distancing and outdoor area restrictions in mind. The Center needs you now more than ever as their clients are helped to navigate through the COVID-10 Pandemic. Register and/or donate at [njaidswalk.org/asbury-park2020](http://njaidswalk.org/asbury-park2020). For additional information please contact Patsy at 732-774-3416 X115 or [quinnpv@optonline.net](mailto:quinnpv@optonline.net).

**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](http://smile.amazon.com) Choose your charity: Church of St. Denis, Manasquan Click on the box marked "yes". You must start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so that the charity gets donations. Then click on the "start shopping" button. It's that simple!

**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.churchofstdenis.org](http://www.churchofstdenis.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.

**DEBT REDUCTION COLLECTION-** Next weekend our second collection will be used to reduce the parish debt. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



**April 12, 2020**

Regular Collection-	\$2,545.00
Average Envelope Donation-	\$44.64
Easter Collection To Be Announced at a Later Date	

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**– Due to the conditions at the time of this bulletin, please check our parish website regularly for updates.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:** First Communion will be rescheduled. Confirmation interviews will be rescheduled. At this time we do not know if Confirmation itself will be rescheduled. It is to be determined.

**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](mailto:trentoncursillo@gmail.com) or 609-396-8447. ext. 14.

**GIVING GARDEN UPDATE**- With one person at a time, now and then, there has been some new growth in our giving garden. There have been some cold-weather crops to start and plans for what will be. In the meantime, as our garden produce is totally given to the St. Vincent de Paul and Ministerium Food Pantries, I share a unique spiritual take on planting a garden: Plant three rows of peas: peas of mind, heart and peas of soul. Plant four rows of squash: squash gossip, indifference, grumbling, squash selfishness. Plant four rows of lettuce: lettuce be faithful, kind, patient, and lettuce love one another. Plant some thyme, thyme for each other, family and friends – new varieties of thyme are needed this year to meet the needs of all. Water with patience and cultivate with love. “You reap what you sow.” (Galatians 6:7) As we prepare to celebrate the feast of St. Isadore the Farmer, may God bless our garden, gardeners and all who will be nourished by the harvest.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES THANKS YOU!**

Our Lenten outreach was short but sweet! Thanks to all who donated; it was, providentially, critical for the people we reached out to for cleaning supplies before the shutdown commenced. Here is part of the “Thank You” from Marlene Lao-Collins, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of Diocese of Trenton:



*Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton extends our sincere appreciation for the large donation of cleaning supplies, baby items, household items and toiletries that were distributed to 3 of our programs – Linkages, My Baby & Me, and Providence House Domestic Violence Services. During such a stressful, uncertain time, as we all pray for a swift end to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, your generosity brings new hope to our neighbors in need, many of whom are struggling now more than ever...Your support is vital to our programs; such essential needs do not go away in times of crisis, our doors remain open and we continue providing many of these services to people (with heightened universal precautions in place). Thank you, and may God bless you, for showing those in our care how loved and valued they are- it's a truly priceless gift to those who are struggling to find hope in their lives. Together, we are making a difference.*

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES** is fully operational at a heightened state of precaution, accommodating social distancing. To access our services or learn how the changes affect our clients via the internet type <https://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/catholic-charities-coronavirus-pandemic/> or call our Help Line 1-800-360-7711.

**HANDBAGS TO HELP**- Vincent's Legacy, the St. Vincent de Paul/Trenton Council furniture ministry which gives away donated quality furniture and household items, is launching its new fundraising initiative, "Handbags to Help." Since 2010, the furniture ministry has served 500+ families, providing \$600,000+ worth of furniture and household goods, and accumulating \$250,000+ in value of volunteer hours. Additionally, this ministry was a 2017 recipient of the New Jersey State Governor's JEFFERSON AWARDS for public service. Please consider donating your gently used designer handbags to help us continue to help others. Contact [handbags.to.help@svdptrenton.org](mailto:handbags.to.help@svdptrenton.org) for more information.



**St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry**

**At St. Denis Church  
Manasquan, NJ 08736  
Phone: 732-223-1383**

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

Until further notice: There will be curbside pick-up of prepackaged food with appropriate social distancing.

Questions or special food needs?

Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Please note adjusted pantry hours:

**Tuesdays: 1PM – 3PM and  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from 10AM – 12noon**

At this time, donations may be dropped off curbside by the pantry during regular pantry hours or on the rectory front porch, under the overhang.

**Please do not include perishables (eggs, meats, cheese) with your donations as we are not able to accept them at this time. We do not have the storage space to accommodate these items.** Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**Items requested for food pantry donation:**

**Depleted:** crackers (like saltines or Ritz), hot chocolate, box milk (like Parmalat), spam, laundry detergent, pancake mix, regular instant coffee, microwavable meals (like Hormel), instant mashed potatoes, unscented hand/body lotion (like Dermasil), paper towels, female deodorant, laundry detergent

**Very Low:** cookies, dish liquid, pancake syrup, sugar, flour, small bottles of vegetable oil, canned black beans and cannelloni, canned pasta meals, canned chili and beef stew, toilet paper and tissues

Thank you for your generous donations! They have been received with sincere gratitude!

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



The current epidemic and its economic impact underscores what we do as Vincentians, as well as what we do, and right now cannot do, like a simple handshake. Our reaching out to our neighbor is our daily walk with the Risen Christ; we recognize Him in others. This crisis and its disruption to daily life might cause us to give up hope as the Apostles had given up hope in the days after Jesus' death (this and last week's Gospel). The Lord wants us to hold on to hope and we must pray that He sustains us.

We pray for our country and for our President and political leaders that they discern the choices which will best enable so many who are so desperate to get back to work and support their families.

Stay well and be safe. God Bless.

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

### A Message from Fr. Bill

As we continue in our Easter season, I continue to pray each day for all of you. I wanted to update you on what has been happening here at St. Denis and also give you some food for thought.

Our parish staff is working, with precautions in place. I want you to know that we are here for you. We spread out who works from home and who is in the office, so please call or email to arrange what you need. I offer daily Mass for all and to honor the intentions that have been requested for each of the Masses. In addition, I continue to offer private Mass for those who have died, until their families can gather for funeral Masses at a later date. I also have been meeting with people for pastoral outreach, pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, marriage preparations etc., just on the phone, or occasionally in person, with precautions in place (feel free to call for a time to talk if you'd like). We also continue to have postings on Facebook throughout the week along with updates on the website, and we post our bulletin on the website (as our bulletin company has been closed due to the pandemic).

There has been a great need to reschedule our parish calendar for many weddings. Fall will be busy! We are still in a holding pattern for choosing new dates for those who would have celebrated First Communion and the Sacraments of the Easter Vigil and we must wait to see if Confirmation will also need to be rescheduled. We know that we will be celebrating these Sacraments, necessary for salvation, but must await for the "go-ahead" from our Bishop. We will let you know as soon as we can.

There has been painting of the parking lot and the cafeteria and other such projects, so that things will be ready for you upon your return to Masses and parish functions. Thankfully, I have been able to pay the bills of the parish, through the generosity of so many and by making decisions to cut costs. Certainly, our weekly collections are less than usual and our Easter Collection was drastically less than previous years. But, as the final work for the church repairs has been put on hold, due to social distancing concerns, so I have also been able to count on moneys we had put aside for that purpose to help us at this time. I ask for your continued donations for the parish, as your means permit.

I am so happy for all of the great work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. So many donations continue to pour in, both money and bags of groceries (nothing perishable please). It is an amazing sight, repeated several times a day, of people driving up to the rectory front doors and carrying up bags of food for our increasing number of neighbors in need. Thank you for such a showing of "faith and love in action."

With that last statement in mind, I would like to leave you with a few reflection questions, namely: *How has the pandemic affected your faith/hope/love?* and also *How has your faith/ hope/love affected the pandemic?* I think both sides of that equation need to be looked at by each of us. To reflect on the effect of the pandemic on your spiritual life and also how you have used your spiritual life in this pandemic. From both of these questions stems a few more, namely: *What have you learned from this experience, thus far? What/who has inspired you?*

There are loads of cartoons and such being passed around during this time, but one hit me in a bad way. The cartoon shows the days of the week, with the "Mon.", "Tues.", "Wed." etc. crossed-out, so that only "day" is left. Spiritually speaking – spiritual life is just another way of saying transcendent life with God/self/others – spiritually speaking, God does not want us to experience life as "day" ala "groundhog day". Instead, we are called to experience life according to the maxim: "each day is a new beginning following in the footsteps of Christ." I encourage you to please reflect on the invitation of God in each new day to renew your faith/hope/love to grow in this experience of the pandemic knowing without a doubt "*that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" (Romans 8,28) I invite you to email me your answers to the questions I posed ([wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org)) to share with me and other parishioners. Certainly, we have had personal experiences during this time, and you can confidentially share those experiences with me in a spiritual direction conversation, but for the parish-at-large, I wish for you to share the graces amidst the challenges that would be a help and inspiration to others. Until next week...

### **AN EXCERPT FROM BISHOP O'CONNELL'S LETTER FOR PRIESTS ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:**

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, I find some comfort in the "Diary" of St. Faustina:

*When I see that the burden is beyond my strength, I do not consider or analyze it or probe into it, but I run like a child to the Heart of Jesus and say only one word to Him: "You can do all things." And then I keep silent, because I know that Jesus Himself will intervene in the matter, and as for me, instead of tormenting myself, I use that time to love Him (1033, page 392)."*

And in another place there, she quotes the Lord Jesus who revealed to her:

*"I am love and mercy itself. There is no misery that could be a match for My mercy, neither will misery exhaust it, because as it is being granted – it increases. The soul that trusts in My mercy is most fortunate, because I Myself take care of it (1273, page 459)."*

My brothers, I believe deeply that the world and its cares and challenges — even a pandemic — cannot keep us from the mercy of God and from the presence of Christ. What we experience daily in these days is a call to continued sacrifice. But the passion and death of the Son of God was the path to his resurrection. It is the path that we, as priests, and all the faithful walk now, together.

### **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.

### **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*

Sr. Mary Guyer, a Sister of Saint Joseph, lives in the convent on the grounds at St. Denis. Life in the convent is a little different these days as normally Sr. Mary would be volunteering at the Religious Ed Program next door, at Mass at the Chapel or visiting friends from her community nearby. But these days, like all of us, Sr. Mary finds herself indoors looking at the world through the windows of her home. The view from the convent was full of the joy and hope of Easter for her this Holy Week as she saw what she can only describe as the “Inspirational Testimony to Our God from the Heart of the People of God.” From the St. Denis convent windows on Good Friday Sr. Mary saw a family reflecting on the Passion of the Lord, climbing the outside steps of the church on their knees. On Easter Sunday, she saw a family praying on their knees in front of the statue of Mary outside the school. Still, she saw another family with small children walking the labyrinth of the Stations of the Cross next to the church praying together. All of these witnesses to the great Paschal Mystery of our Lord Jesus Christ filled her heart and connected her to our community with an awesome experience of the Holy days of this Easter season. As we continue to celebrate this Easter Season and the hope that the Resurrection of the Lord brings us, may we all be inspired by Sr. Mary’s reflections on the witness of faith that she saw in her view from the convent. Know that we are never alone; we are one in the One who loves us and gave us eternal life in Him.

### GRIEF AND LOSS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Many aspects of our lives have changed in a very short period of time. Coronavirus has changed our lives in unexpected and unwanted ways. Uncertainty has become a way of life. One aspect of the challenge of living in these times is dealing with death, dying and grief. This is not addressing the threat of death from coronavirus. This is death as it is encountered and experienced in the normal course of human experience. Grief becomes increasingly complicated and painful when the normal rituals and experiences surrounding death and dying are disrupted. During this time of isolation and separation, state and CDC mandates have dictated that no more than ten people may gather in one place. In a hospital, nursing home or hospice setting, this narrows to two people, and then only when the care provider determines that death is imminent.

When people aren’t physically present to say goodbye and grieve with other mourners, they may be more likely to experience a sense of ambiguous loss. With an ambiguous loss, it’s very hard to get closure. There’s often a lot of frustration and helplessness, because people feel disempowered.

In our Catholic tradition, rituals provide structure and predictability in the aftermath of death. Since conducting a traditional funeral is no longer an option in these times, priests seek to give comfort and assure prayers and blessings said that offer the hope of the loved one’s share in life everlasting with the hope of a larger Memorial Mass in better future days as families desire. There are no easy answers. What will help is wise intervention to assist someone to walk through the experience of loss and grief.

So how can we construct new ways to help us cope with death and dying for this situation that we’re in right now? Since this is all uncharted territory, people go to fill the gap with face timing loved ones in the hospital or holding virtual wakes online through different resources. It may be helpful to remember that some suggestions for supporting those grieving, though not virtual or techno, do still hold much in value of being supportive. Simply being a listening, compassionate presence is often the best method to help someone move through their grief. One to one *intentional* interaction, a phone call or a hand written card/letter can often make more of an impact than you think in our techno centered world. But here are some things to remember when offering support to someone grieving:

- Don’t say “It will be okay.” (It is not okay and it doesn’t really have to be).
- Do not offer advice on a time limit for grief. Some people grieve for the rest of their lives.
- Grief is not a problem to be solved. So LISTEN don’t SOLVE
- Don’t say: “He/she is in a better place.” or “It will get better with time.”
- You don’t get over grief. Grief is something you learn to live with.

Simply being a listening, compassionate presence is often the best method to help someone move through their grief. Grief is unwelcome but inevitable in our lives. These complicated days certainly will add to the grieving process. But what is very important to remember is that most people experience the biggest drop off of support three to six months after the death of their loved one. So stay mindful of those who have had a death of a loved one change their life. Keep reaching out, calling or letting them know that you are there without any expectation from the person bereaving that they get back to you or will ask you if they need help. Do it today, do it next week and then keep on doing it all year long! Though we may be social distancing, we have no limit on the care, love and concern we can offer throughout these days and throughout the year.

We pray for all the families of our parish and throughout the world who have experienced the death of a loved one in these last weeks. We ask the Lord Jesus Christ to comfort them in their loss made so very complicated during these isolating days. ***“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”***

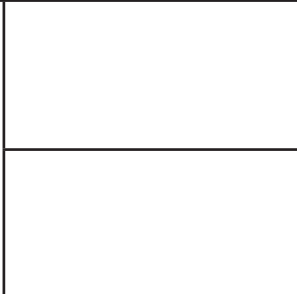
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