

March 29, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent

Many of us have perhaps heard or sung the old Negro spiritual "Dry Bones." It sets to music the vision found in the 37th chapter of Ezekiel. He was speaking to God's people in exile in Babylon. They are like a valley filled with dry, dead bones. It was a time of death, despair for God's people. But Ezekiel spoke a message of hope. God would pour forth His Spirit upon them and the dead bones would come together again and live!

In today's first reading we hear the Lord say "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them and bring you back to the land of Israel." In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus bring His friend, Lazarus, back to life, the foreshadowing of His own Resurrection. We may feel today like the field of dead bones. We may be tempted to feel discouraged, despairing. But our God gives us too the HOPE of new life. He will bring us together again! We will rise by God's grace, to new life!

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday.

After 9:30am the Blessed Palm will be available for you at a table next to the church. If you are going to a store or pharmacy etc., you may stop by and without getting out of your car take some palm for your family or to pass on to others.

GATHERINGS

We realize the need to have community prayer with family and friends however please do this via facetime, Skype, YouTube etc. We cannot have people gathering inside or outside St. Helena's Church. Please review the Bishop's directive in our bulletin.

Thank you for your understanding.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please note that per the governor's mandate the Easter egg hunt is cancelled.

The Offertory Collections For the weekend 3/15 was \$2,868.00 and the on-line collection was \$1,500.00 for a total of \$4,368.00. **THANK YOU!**

Online Giving has never been easier... Please see

our website for  *Parish Giving*

CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be available by appointment only please call the Rectory (302-764-0325). You do not need to identify who you are. Msgr will schedule you.

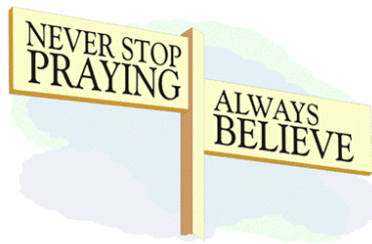
Please Pray For Our Sick Parishioners

Ruth Bower, Charles Brumbaugh, Patricia Darmanin, Jayne Davenport, Bob Davis, Julia Davis, Gerri Episcopo, Sara Garrison, Sarah Hess, Ella Kirksey, Fr. Roy Pollard, Terri Reed, Dorothy Rich, Helen Rupnicki, Kathleen Schaubert, Irma Shock, Caitlin Soper, Frank Sullivan, Catherine Thomson, James Whisker, Ann Wilson, Cindy Zych, Anita Tyrawski, Mary Gabel, Alline Da Grossa, Toni Di Lezio, Sister Dorothy Prettyman, Janet Szubieolski, Catalina Weddle, Ray Altamuro, Marie Spinden, Jane Parsons, Francis Medeiros, Friends at the Kutz Home, Amy Jo Schosie-Jones, Nicolas Childs, Alfred Palmer, Bridget Robinson, Fr. Bill Lawler, Mary Tabler, Fr. Charles Dillingham



Cancelled

Out of respect for all our Bingo players, volunteers and our community at large, we are cancelling our weekly Bingo. We will reassess the situation at another time and decide when it is best to begin weekly Bingo games again. We offer our prayers that all in our community remain well and we look forward to seeing everyone at Bingo when we begin our games again.



Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.



Our Outreach office is closed.

**If you need to come to the Rectory we ask that
you please call
302-764-0325
THANK YOU!**

**Please Note: NO private prayer will be
allowed in the church**

MASSES

Msgr Russell is celebrating a Mass each day privately, as the Bishop said. If there is a Mass intention listed for any of the Masses, he is offering the Mass for that intention. If there are more intentions listed, he will celebrate that Mass at another day when there is no intention. He misses seeing all of you at Mass but is praying for all of you. Pray that God delivers us from this Corona Virus.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 28

Stephen Hales

Sunday, March 29

People of the Parish

Monday, March 30

Paul O. Knight

Tuesday, March 31

Victor Capodanno

Wednesday, April 1

Josephine "Josie" Conatry

(From March 22)

Thursday, April 2

James Schiliro (from March 29)

Friday, April 3

Carl Von Meysenbug

Saturday, April 4

Anthony Leounes, Jr. (from March 29)

Sunday, April 5

People of the Parish



Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, 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. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.



Changes in Light of the Novel Coronavirus

After prayerful consideration and with the advice of my senior staff, deans, medical, and government officials, I have taken the extraordinary step to **cancel all public Masses in the Diocese of Wilmington until further notice, effective immediately**. This effort is designed to help safeguard the public and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

I am saddened to have had to make this decision but, in the end, it was an easy one as we must put the health and well-being of our parishioners and others first. It is important that we continue to remind our people to be safe and to follow all directives from our governmental agencies. This is not a time to panic but we need to take this very seriously.

Please be mindful of the following:

- All Masses (Weekday and Weekend) and all liturgical and devotional services are suspended until further notice with the exception of weddings and funerals, where attendance is limited to immediate family only.
- Priests should continue to celebrate private Masses in order to fulfill all Mass intentions.
- All parishes should maintain office hours. You may alter the days and times, but do not shut down.

The Office of Communication has set up a website – cdow.org/coronavirus – with information including a viewable Sunday Mass recorded at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust policy as necessary.

Let us continue to pray for our diocese, our health care workers, and for all affected by the coronavirus.

Sincerely in Our Lord,
Bishop Malooly