

Please keep these deceased loved ones in your prayers.

THIS WEEK

Saturday 5:00 Frank & Carmela Popoli
 Sunday 8:00 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 10:00 Virginia Swenson
 Monday 8:00 Parish Family
 Tuesday 8:00 William E. Broadwell
 Wed 8:00 Ellen & Jack Devine
 Friday 8:00 Catherine & John Lentine

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 Philip F. Bradley, Jr.
 Sunday 8:00 Elaine Goslee,
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 10:00 Lew Carrington

**PLEASE HELP US KEEP
 THESE LISTS UP TO DATE**

PRAY FOR THE ILL OF THE PARISH

Martin Coughlin, Loretta Stephens, Harry Marcoux, John Keane, Tris Windle, David Cousins, Lynne Scalia, Alex Podeszwa, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Anne Caruso, John M. Pollard, Peter Cruckshank, Bill Hannon, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Tyler Bencotter, Agnes Wolfgang, Fr. Paul Smith, Marilyn Drewes, Ray Castriotta, Julianne Sullivan, Robert Grudzina, Marge LaGrassa, Jim Lewis, Joyce Loechner, Frank Salomone, Pauline Laberge, Chad Larivee, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Gerry Csaposs, Peggy Carson, Addie Priess, Frank McCarthy, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Paul Kascsak, Patty Camarra, James Manley, Betty Babcock, Thomas Murphy, Chris Frazier, Melissa K., Baby Lillian Thoman, Jessica O., Fran McDonagh, Donna Hibbert, Margaret Royce, Beth Nixon, Anne O'Brien, Ben McMahon, Gerry Moynihan, Martha Moynihan, Richard Paskiewicz, Mary Rodrigues, Emily Sparks, Stephen Moreau, Paula Madeiro, Paul Brandon, Rita Folger, Gerri DiCristina, Kathleen Kilmer, Marguerite Forren, Mary Pickard, Deepthi Moola, Steve Novick, Ernie T., Eleanor Symecko, Susanne Albert, Joseph Wignot, Hector Pelletier

**PRAY FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE
 MEN AND WOMEN**

Brandy Nelson, Timothy Horigan, Scott Doucette, Michael Wilson, David Lucas, Sean Lucas, Peter Civita Shayne, Peter Cabral, Gregory DeLuca, Joshua Schmitt, Joseph Long, Brad Howard, Thomas Scudder, Jeffrey Stebbins, Phillip McDonough, David Wilcox, John Amick, David McDonald, Lt. Edward J. Maloney, Andrew Kelley, William James Miller, David Orloski, Stephen Tammaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Pruffer, Brandon Stubbs, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

Eleanor R. Culik



**PRAYER TO OUR LADY, HEALTH OF THE SICK
 DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

*O Mary,
 You shine continuously on our journey
 as a sign of salvation and hope.
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
 who, at the Cross,
 united with Jesus' pain,
 keeping your faith firm.*

*You, Salvation of the Roman people,
 know what we need,
 and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that,
 as at Cana of Galilee,
 joy and celebration may return
 after this moment of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
 to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
 and to do what Jesus tells us.
 He who took our suffering upon Himself,
 and burdened Himself with our sorrows
 to bring us, through the Cross,
 to the joy of Resurrection. Amen.*

*We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of
 God.
 Do not despise our pleas — we who are put to the test —
 and deliver us from every danger. O glorious and blessed
 Virgin.*

—Pope Francis, March 11, 2020

HYMNS ON OUR WEBSITE

Our Director of Music, Art McManus, recorded several hymns on the piano and we have put the Mp3's on the main page of our website. During these stressful days, spend a few serene moments listening to him play, *Be Not Afraid, Amazing Grace, You Are Mine, Christ be Our Light, The Lord is My Shepherd.*

Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ,

*you traveled through towns and villages curing every
disease and illness.*

At your command, the sick were made well.

*Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of
the coronavirus,*

that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus.

*May they regain their strength and health through quality
medical care.*

Heal us from our fear,

*which prevents nations from working together and
neighbors from helping one another.*

Heal us from our pride,

*which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that
knows no borders.*

Jesus Christ, healer of all,

stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus.

May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.

*As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and
despair.*

May they know your peace.

*Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical
professionals who seek to heal and help those affected
and who put themselves at risk in the process.*

May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations.

*Give them the foresight to act with charity and true
concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to
serve.*

*Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that
will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.*

*May they know your peace, as they work together to
achieve it on earth.*

Whether we are home or abroad,

*surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or
only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and
mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give
us your peace.*

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Kerry Weber is an Executive Editor of America Magazine, taken from
www.americamagazine.com

FAREWELL MY FRIEND

Recently Connections printed a poem by a Vietnamese poet, *Thi My Nhung*, which was adapted and published by W.D. Ehrhart. The poem embodies the compassionate heart of a Vietnamese woodcutter who was returning home after a long day working in the dense tropical forest. He had come across the remains of a soldier – an American. Time had removed any traces of identity or personal effects long ago. With respect for the life and honor and dignity afforded to all human beings that was central to his Buddhist faith, the woodcutter had carefully and respectfully buried the body:

*Was your plane on fire, or did you die of bullet wounds,
or fall down exhausted?*

Just so, you died in the forest alone.

*Only the two of us, a woodcutter and his wife, dug this
grave for you, burned joss sticks, prayed for you to rest in
peace.*

*How could we know there would be such a meeting
between you and I, once separated by an ocean, by the
color of our sky, by language?*

But destiny bound our lives together.

*And today, by destiny's grace, you are finally going
home.*

*I believe your American sky is as blue as the sky above
this country where you have rested for all this time.*

Is it too late to love each other?

*Between us now, the ocean seems so small. How close are
our two continents in this moment.*

*I wish a tranquil heaven for your soul, gemmed with
twinkling stars and shining moon.*

May your soil rest forever – in the soil of our home.

Death is the great equalizer and unifier – in the moment of death we are all one and the same before God. In these final weeks of Lent, may we see our lives and world in the light of Easter – in the realization that every one of us is the beloved of God; that in death our souls are called ‘home’ to God’s own Great Heart. May we honor the dignity we all possess by virtue of being created by the One who unbinds us from ignorance and fear. Through Christ we are set free to live and love more generously – knowing that through this shared Spirit of life and love, we will all be raised to new life both now and forever.

**Statement of Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.,
Suspending the Celebration of Masses in the Diocese
of Fall River**

Out of concern for the health and well-being of all who reside in Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands and in response to the direction of public officials, I am suspending all public Masses and other liturgical services in the Diocese of Fall River until further notice. This includes Masses of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

At the same time, I am issuing a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time to all Catholics of the Diocese.

Exceptions are granted for the celebration of weddings and funerals, but attendance must be limited to immediate family members only, not to exceed 10 persons. Every effort must be made to follow precautions already announced in previous communications from the Diocese along with recommendations of public health officials.

I am asking that churches be open for a limited time during the day to the extent possible and at the discretion of the pastor to provide the faithful who still wish with an opportunity to visit for private prayer. Parishes should provide this information on their websites.

I strongly encourage our Catholics to pray at home and to seek out opportunities to participate in Masses available on television or online instead. Information is available on our website, www.fallriverdiocese.org.

The Mass is our central act of worship, the source and summit of our Catholic faith, and it goes without saying that this difficult decision was not made lightly. It was done after prayerful consideration of the critical health threat that now confronts us. The gravity of it demands that we take whatever action is needed, despite the hardship, for the good of the protection of all especially those who are most vulnerable at this time.

Please join me in prayer in these challenging days for all who are impacted by COVID-19 and in a special way for those who are sick and for those who work to combat the disease.

I wish to entrust all of our people especially our sick and elderly to the protection of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Assumption the patroness of our Diocese, so that under her motherly care we all may persevere in faith to support one another. Let us all pray that this may come to a quick end and normalcy may be restored.

MARCH 29 — FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

GIVE GLORY TO GOD

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Jesus. Although he was their close friend, he chose to stay away, that God's glory would be manifested. This is a persistent theme in John's Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus' works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have "put on Christ" in baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the Lord GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. Then you shall know I am the LORD, O my people! (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Psalm — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
[41c-62];
Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21;
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56;
Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13;
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession);
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24;
Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66
[27:11-54]