





## Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I pray you and your loved ones are all holding up well during these extraordinary and difficult days. Unfortunately, due to the recommendations of many in the scientific community and the subsequent orders of our elected officials, we are still prohibited from gathering to celebrate the Eucharist. However, I continue to celebrate a private Mass throughout this time and include the Mass intentions listed in the parish bulletin at these Masses. There are Mass intentions available in our parish calendar. Please email the Parish Office to confirm a Mass intention for a family member or loved one of your own.

The church will remain closed, but I encourage everyone to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and view other good quality spiritual programming on Catholic TV, found on your local cable Channel 268 or on EWTN, Channel 56. Mass is televised each Sunday at 11:00am on Channel 6. You can also view daily Mass on-line at <http://www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass>

This week we observe the Ascension of the Lord. In this Solemnity we celebrate Christ's ascension to the right hand of God the Father and prepare for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Throughout these 50 days of the Easter Season, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus who is the resurrection and the light of the world. May we all carry His light and His love into our homes, our families and wherever our personal path may lead us. May we remember one another in prayer especially those most in need of our prayers at this time.

God bless,  
Fr. Bill Rodrigues

### THIS WEEKEND IS HARVEST SUNDAY

Your continued support of Harvest Sunday enables our Vincentians to provide help to those in need with necessities — food, medicine, rent, utilities. Thanks for giving.



79th Annual Catholic Appeal  
DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

### ANNUAL DIOCESAN CATHOLIC APPEAL

This year's 79th annual Catholic Appeal, "*See All the People*," begins in June and runs through July 31.

To say this year's Appeal is taking place under unusual circumstances is understating the stunning and unprecedented need brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The work of our Diocesan Catholic Appeal remains critically important because of our current challenges. **Never before in its 79-year history have the agencies, ministries and apostolates sustained by the Catholic Appeal been more necessary.** During these trying times, the programs supported by the Appeal are actively serving the sick, homeless, and vulnerable among us.

As in years past you will be receiving an informational brochure and contribution card in the mail soon. If your circumstances permit you to make a one-time gift or a pledge, please complete the enclosed contribution card, insert it in the enclosed envelope and mail it to the **Catholic Appeal of the Diocese of Fall River, 450 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720.** You may make your check payable to the "Catholic Appeal." You can also make secure online donations by visiting [www.givefrdiocese.org/2020](http://www.givefrdiocese.org/2020). If you are unable to make a financial gift, the gift of your prayers in support of these ministries is greatly appreciated.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Pope Francis at Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020  
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

### **FIRST PRAYER**

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 foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

## SECOND PRAYER

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

## I WISH YOU ENOUGH

A father and his adult daughter are saying goodbye at the airport. Her flight has been announced and they hug one last time at the security gate. The father says, *“I love you, honey, and I wish you enough.”*

The daughter hugs her dad again. *“Dad, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too”*. She turns to board her flight, waving one last time before disappearing down the ramp.

The father then walks over to the window to watch his daughter’s plane take off. Tears are beginning to stream down his face. Someone sitting nearby walks over to him and asks if he is all right:

The old man brushes away his tears, *“Did you ever say goodbye to someone you love knowing it would be forever?”*

“What causes you to think that this is a ‘forever goodbye’?” asks the stranger.

*“I am old – my daughter lives far away – the reality is that her next trip home will be my funeral.”*

“And ‘I wish you enough’—what did you mean by that?” asks the stranger.

The father smiles. He explains that it is a blessing passed down through the family for generations. He places his hand on the stranger’s shoulder and recites:

*“I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright no matter how gray the day may appear. I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more. I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting – and enough pain so that even the smallest joy may appear bigger. I wish you enough gain to satisfy any wanting. I wish you enough loss to appreciate all you possess. I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbye.”*

Resurrection is not just a historical biblical event Jesus’ resurrection is an attitude – a way of looking at our lives and our world. It is a perspective centered in hope, compassion, and the certainty that God is in our midst. The Easter miracle is God’s promise that we will always have *enough* love to give; *enough* forgiveness to seek and offer; *enough* reason to carry on with hope in the face of whatever loss or catastrophe we face. May we bless one another with the assurance that the power of compassion, forgiveness, and hope are never in vain – that God’s generous Spirit is enough to transform our hearts and our world

## SAINT ROCCO—PRAY FOR US

Saint Rocco (AKA "Saint Roch") was born in Montpellier, France in the 14th century to a noble family. Legend has it that his mother had been barren until she prayed to the Virgin Mary. Saint Rocco's birth was made all the more miraculous by a birthmark resembling a red cross on his chest.

His parents died when he was twenty years old, at which point he gave away all his worldly possessions and set out on a pilgrimage to Rome. At the time, Italy was suffering from a plague epidemic. Saint Rocco cared selflessly for the sick, effecting many miraculous cures by making the sign of the cross or laying his hands on them.

In Piacenza, however, he finally fell ill. He was driven out of town and into the forest, where he made a hut for himself out of leaves and branches. Miraculously, a spring arose near his hut to provide him with water and a local dog began bringing him bread to eat. The dog would also lick his wounds clean, eventually healing him.

He returned to Montpellier looking like a wild man with unkempt hair and a long beard. Unrecognized by the townspeople, he was thrown in prison as a spy. He remained there for five years before



dying, unwilling to reveal his identity out of humility. The townspeople recognized the birthmark across his chest, and he was venerated as a folk saint almost immediately after his death. But he was not officially canonized until the 17th century. He is traditionally depicted in religious art with a wound on his thigh, a dog (often seen bringing him a loaf of bread), pilgrim's hat and staff. Saint Rocco is venerated in the Roman Catholic Church as the protector against the plague and all contagious diseases. Let us pray for St. Rocco's intercession for protection from the Coronavirus.

### Saint Rocco Prayer for Healing and Protection

During your travels on earth,  
God worked His miraculous healing  
through your intercession.  
Many were cured of the plague  
from your prayers and the sign of the cross.  
We implore you Saint Rocco  
to intercede before the throne of God.  
Send forth a blessing of protection from  
Contagious diseases and the Coronavirus.  
Bless us Heavenly Father with your healing grace.  
We ask this in the name of your Divine Son, Jesus.  
Amen

Stained glass window photographed inside Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Newark, NJ

**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 Benscoter, Agnes Wolfgang, Fr. Paul Smith, Marilyn Drewes, Ray Castriotta, Julianne Sullivan, Robert Grudzina, Marge LaGrassa, Jim Lewis, Joyce Loechner, Frank Salomone, Chad Larivee, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Gerry Csaposs, Addie Priess, Frank McCarthy, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Paul Kasczak, 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 McMahan, 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, Bob Cunnane, Thomas McSparron

**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 Tamaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Prufer, Brandon Stubbs, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken

**FR. BILL'S HOMILIES ON SJA WEBSITE**

Audio recordings of Fr. Bill's homilies are uploaded to our Parish Website each week. Go to [www.joanarc.org](http://www.joanarc.org) to find the audio link on our home page.

*Please keep these deceased loved ones in your prayers.*

**THIS WEEK**

Saturday 5:00 Alan Bowden, Bruce Burke  
Sunday 8:00 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
10:00 Lew Carrington  
Monday 8:00 Norma Paladino  
Tuesday 8:00 Cora Langone Craven  
Wed 8:00 Pauline LaBerge  
Ascen. Thurs Nan Hadley  
Fri 8:00 Urban, Therese & Francis Hughes

**NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday 5:00 Domenica Guidera  
Sunday 8:00 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
10:00 Dylan Goldsmith-Cella

**PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED**

Louie Coppola, Peg Carson

**COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!**

This Week's Donations \$7,350.00

*Your generosity to St. Joan of Arc is greatly appreciated.*

**GABRIEL SYSTEM ON-LINE GIVING**

We are so grateful to all who have donated through the envelope system or through Gabriel, our new on-line giving program. **Whether you choose to continue with the envelopes or donate on-line, we encourage everyone to register with Gabriel so we can build an up-to-date parish census including emails and mobile phone numbers to better handle situations like this going forward.**

**Directions:** On the left-hand side of the SJA website home page scroll down beneath the photo of the church until you see the Online Giving Icon. Click the icon which gives you two options: one to register and one to donate. Once we establish a member portal — down the road — registered donors will have the ability to manage and track donations.