



## AMERICAN ANTHEM

*All we've been given by those who came before  
The dream of a nation where freedom would endure  
The work and prayers of centuries have brought us to this day  
What shall be our legacy? What will our children say?*

*Let them say of me I was one who believed  
In sharing the blessings I received  
Let me know in my heart when my days are through  
America, America I gave my best to you*

*Each generation from the plains to distant shore  
With the gifts they were given were determined to leave more  
Valiant Battles fought together Acts of Conscience fought alone  
These are the seeds from which America has grown*

*Let them say of me I was one who believed  
In sharing the blessings I received  
Let me know in my heart when my days are through  
America, America I gave my best to you*

*For those who think they have nothing to share  
Who fear in their hearts there is no hero there  
Know each quiet act of dignity is that which fortifies  
The soul of a nation that never dies.*

Composed by American songwriter Gene Sheer, "American Anthem" premiered at the Smithsonian Institution's unveiling ceremony for the restored "Star-Spangled Banner" flag in 1999. Mezzo soprano Denyce Graves sang it during the ceremony, which was attended by President and Mrs. Clinton. The song has also been performed at two presidential inaugurations. In 2007, the documentary film maker Ken Burns featured "American Anthem", sung by Nora Jones, in the World War II documentary for PBS, "The War". The beautiful and thought-provoking lyrics are perhaps fitting for our Memorial Day remembrance this year.



**Pastor's  
Corner**

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I pray you and your loved ones are holding up well during these extraordinary and difficult days. This past week, per order of Governor Baker, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with much study and consideration, decided it was time to lift the ban on gatherings in houses of worship. However, there are many guidelines and restrictions still in place. The health and safety of worshippers is of paramount concern. Please note the message from Bishop da Cunha speaking to this in this week's bulletin.

Our public Masses will resume here at St. Joan of Arc Church on the weekend of May 30-31. That will be the Solemnity of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost which is consider the birthday of the Church. We pray that the grace of that same Holy Spirit will guide us, console us, inspire us and protect us in these weeks and months ahead. In the meantime, I continue to celebrate a private Mass 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.

Prior to 4:00pm Confessions and 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, May 30, St. Joan of Arc Church will remain closed. 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>.

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 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



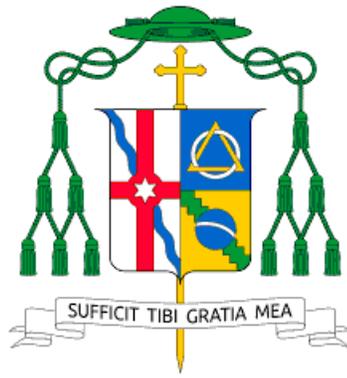
79th Annual Catholic Appeal  
DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

**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 in Christ,

As I am sure you know by now, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker today issued directives for the first phase of reopening in the state of some industries and activities, including the opening houses of worship. After meeting with the Presbyteral (or Priests') Council this morning and discussing this important matter, I want to communicate our plans as we work on guidelines to prepare our parishes for reopening.

The reopening of our parishes for public Masses and celebrations of sacraments is complex and requires careful planning and implementation. What must be of paramount concern throughout this process of resuming public worship is the safety of our people, our priests, deacons and lay ministers. It is very clear that we will need time for this preparation to ensure that all mandatory safety standards may be met and that all churches may have on hand the necessary supplies. It goes without saying, that the governor is not mandating the opening of our churches, but rather declaring that we can resume public worship as long as the necessary safety measures are observed. After much discussion and discernment among the Presbyteral Council, it was decided that here in the Diocese of Fall River, we will open our churches for public Masses on the Feast of Pentecost, beginning with the Vigil on ***Saturday, May 30th***.

Considering that many people, because of age or a medical condition, are advised not to come to church during this outbreak, or may prefer to stay home because of fear of becoming infected, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in effect until further notice.

I want to remind you that between now and Pentecost churches will remain open for those who wish to visit for personal prayer and adoration. I am also allowing our priests to hear individual confessions of those who seek to receive the sacrament, observing the necessary safety measures.

Our Easter season culminates with Pentecost as we commemorate the occasion of God's sending the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection. This year, it will offer us added joy as we resume public celebrations of Masses in our churches across the Fall River Diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.

## I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

Sometime this week we might spend a few minutes with the family photo album or with the stored photos on our I-pads. We could choose to give thanks for each of our family members and friends – or offer them forgiveness – or just feel their presence. In some way they have formed us, taught us; and instilled in us certain values that have shaped the way we live.

As we reconnect with these dear ones, we realize that in an intangible way even those who have passed are still with us. In fact most of us have had the experience of “*sounding like our mother; our father*” in the things we say or in the way we act. In a deep sense they have become an integral part of us.

When we “*pray*” our memories, we begin to see that leave-taking is a part of every person’s experience. Whether it is a teen going off to college; a beloved friend moving away; the death of someone near to us; the sudden changes caused by a pandemic; or simply the passage of time which moves us from one chapter of life to another. We see that leave-taking is part and parcel of life.

This week we recognize that the Ascension of the Lord is not so much a marking of a departure, but the celebration of a *continuing Presence*. In the very beginning of Matthew’s Gospel we rejoiced in the words: *Emmanuel – God is with us!* Now, nearing the end of this same Gospel, we celebrate the words of leave-taking: “*I am with you always, even to the end of time.*” This is not an abstract or a distant presence – this is a Presence that is indeed, *always with us*: Christ is the center of every Mass; every Eucharistic Celebration; every sacrament; every community gathering of prayer and worship.

But Christ is also present in our more private moments. Christ is present in every act of kindness, generosity, and mercy – in every compassionate outreach and experience. Christ is in our midst in everything we do with caring intent. Even a daily commute can become a chance for re-connecting to the Holy Presence – instead of being pulled into an “unholy irritation”. To “*pray*” our daily routines, might mean sending a breath of kindness (behind the safety of the mask) to the people in the grocery line; to the cashier behind the newly established plexi-glass; and to the person who bags our groceries.

To “*pray*” our daily moments might be as simple as being attuned to the Holy Presence in every person we encounter whether it be at a distance on a walk; chatting with friends on the phone; connecting via the many options of virtual gatherings; or finding Presence in the beauty of nature as it eventually bursts into the full bloom of Spring. The charge Jesus leaves to his disciples on the mountain of the Ascension is left to all of us. We are called to teach, to witness, and to heal in our own small corners of the world. This “world” could be in our homes; our supermarkets, our cars; our local communities; our Church; or in a “zoom-room”. These are just a few “photos” of the expanded family we might find in our album. We are called to prayerfully remember this *family* – all of us, God’s children – all of us, one family. And as we remember, we offer gratitude; forgiveness; and a simple acknowledgment that all living beings are an integral thread in the fabric of our lives. May we go about *praying our daily routines* this week – and ask the grace to be fully present in a kind and generous spirit, knowing that indeed, *Christ is always with us*

## 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 Domenica Guidera  
Sunday 8:00 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
10:00 Dylan Goldsmith-Cella  
Monday 8:00 Paul Masterson  
Tuesday 8:00 John & Eileen Ahle  
Wed 8:00 Diane Basco  
John/Eileen Ahle  
Fri 8:00 Richard Valicenti

**NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday 5:00 Louie Coppola  
Sunday 8:00 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family  
10:00 Dr. Samuel Aristides

**PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED**

Diane Basco, Mary Anthony

**COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!**

May 17 Regular	\$6,558.86
May Harvest	\$1,303.76

*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.