

PASTORAL PLAN FOR REOPENING ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, issued by Bishop da Cunha, remains in effect until further notice. Those who are most vulnerable and at a greater risk due to age, preexisting health conditions, or in close proximity to vulnerable people are encouraged to remain home at this time. If you or a close loved one shows any symptoms of illness, please do not come to church.

The weekend Mass schedule here at St. Joan of Arc Church will remain the same throughout the summer months... Saturday at 5:00pm, Sunday at 8:00am and 10:00am. We have decided this primarily because adding another Mass on Sunday morning, as we normally do during the summer months, would not allow sufficient time to properly sanitize the church after each Mass. Mass intentions that have already been requested for 9:30am will be included with the 8:00am Mass for that day and the intentions requested for 11:00am will be remembered at the 10:00am Mass of that day unless otherwise requested. **During the week Mass is celebrated Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:00am.**

Per state regulations, gatherings cannot exceed 40% of a house of worship's occupancy capacity. Taking into account social distancing of 6 feet between people (or households), means only approximately 3 people in every other pew.

All worshippers will enter the church through the Main Entrance. For safety and order, a person will not be able to choose a specific seat. A specially trained group of greeters will be used to assist people to their seats. Once we reach our occupancy limit, we will not be able to admit others. Charity, cooperation and understanding are asked of all.

Everyone entering the church is required to wear a mask or other face covering. Please provide your own masks. While there is hand sanitizer available at the entrance, please consider providing your own, if you can, as supply is limited.

There will be receptacles at the entrance of the church in which you may place your contribution to the parish as you enter. You may place both 1st and 2nd collections together. On-line giving is encouraged via our parish website. Thank you so much for your support, especially at this extraordinary time.

The offertory procession (bringing up of the bread and wine) and the usual sign of peace will be eliminated. You may offer the sign of peace with a head nod and wave. The holy water fonts at the doors of the church will remain empty. Missals/hymnals have been removed as it would be difficult to sanitize them. Singing will be eliminated from our worship until further notice.

Holy Communion will be distributed at the usual time during the Mass. Those receiving Communion will approach row by row (keeping the 6 feet safe distancing protocol) and section by section. Please remain at your pew until your row is called. The priest will distribute Communion with sanitized hands while wearing a mask. Communicants may lift their mask just prior to receiving Holy Communion.

Following the Final Blessing, please immediately, reverently and quietly leave the church by the door closest to your pew maintaining the 6 feet distancing protocol. Upon exiting the church, please refrain from congregating near the doors of the church. After each Mass, the tops of the benches, door handles and other high traffic areas will be sanitized.

Scheduling for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers will be suspended for the time being. All parish ministries and events will remain suspended until further notice. The church will be closed following each Mass. The Parish Office, Faith Formation Office and Thrift Shop will remain closed.

I encourage all who make the prudent judgement for themselves not to return to church for Mass, to instead 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>.

Let us remember one another in prayer especially those most in need of our prayers at this time. Let us commit ourselves to prayer for an end to the COVID-19 coronavirus.



Pastor's Corner

Dear parishioners and friends,

In May, Rita Harper, our St. Joan of Arc Parish Administrative Assistant spoke with me and told me that, although she has loved working here in the Parish Office, she feels that the time has come for her to begin the process of retirement. It is with personal sadness that I announce Rita's retirement, effective the end of August.

Rita has been an esteemed member of our parish staff for almost 18 years and she will be greatly missed by parishioners and colleagues alike. Rita has been a tremendous employee. She is gifted with a keen mind and a cooperative nature. In addition to her incredible competence and skill, she has been a friend to all with her thoughtfulness and quiet encouragement. Her co-workers also recognize Rita for her courtesy and amicability. We have all benefited from her innovative approach to her work in the Parish Office as technologies and new means of communication have developed over the years. It is clear, that through it all, Rita has approached the work of the Parish Office as ministry in the Lord's service. She will be truly missed. I know we all wish Rita the very best at this time of transition.

I am very happy to announce that Lisa Scapellati has been hired to take on the role of Administrative Assistant here at St. Joan of Arc Parish. Many of you know Lisa very well through her years of worshipping with us as well as through the many ministries she has been involved in here at St. Joan of Arc Church. Lisa's personal skills, professionalism and kindness, I am confident, will be a great blessing to St. Joan of Arc Parish.

Please join me in prayer for Rita and Lisa during this season of transition. Let us pray that the Lord will abundantly bless them and their loved ones at this time and in the years ahead.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Bill Rodrigues

**MASS INTENTIONS
THIS WEEK**

Saturday 5:00 Arthur Ferrara
 Sunday 8:00 Mary & Patrick McDonagh
 George & Anne Walsh
 Lew Carrington
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 10:00 Daniel Klein
 Monday 8:00 Marie San Filippo
 Tuesday 8:00 Audrey P. Moran
 Wednesday 8:00 Allan McAlpine
 Friday 8:00 Beatrice Wittmer
 5:00 Parish Family
 Saturday 8:00 Parish Family

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 Alma & John Csaposs
 Mary & Ben McMahon
 Sunday 8:00 Rose Ingham, Scott Norris
 Harry & Esther Folger
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 10:00 Jack Largey

COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!

August 2 Regular	\$ 8,968.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 505.00
Diocesan Appeal	\$56,165.00

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

GABRIEL SYSTEM ON-LINE GIVING

Thanks 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.

Before making your initial on-line donation, it is necessary to register so the system will recognize you. You need only register once.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be observed this week with a Vigil Mass at 5:00pm on Friday, August 14, as well as 9:00am on Saturday, August 15. Because the Solemnity falls on a Saturday, it is not a holy day of obligation this year.

**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 Bencoter, 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 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, 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 Tammaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Pruffer, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken

**Weekly Reflection by Judy Burt Walker,
Director of Faith Formation**

LOCAL RE-OPENS

LOCAL volunteers will be providing lunches and other grocery items for TAKE-OUT from the Parish Center each Tuesday. Pick up time is from 11:30 to 12:30 only. Those picking up items must wear face masks and bring their own bags. Social distancing must be maintained and only one person at a time will be allowed into the center where volunteers will distribute meals and some groceries immediately inside the doors. We are happy to be able to provide this once-a-week service.

SHARE THE NEWS

Please help us share parish news and updates by mentioning to your neighbors and friends that the weekly bulletin and other parish and diocesan news can be found on our parish website, www.joanarc.org.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who supported the Catholic Appeal during a year when our diocesan programs and services helping those in need are more important than ever. To date, as a diocese, we have raised \$3,302,058.97. The final gifts and pledges are still being counted and a final total for our parish will be reported soon. Please stay tuned for a more detailed wrap-up showing results throughout the Diocese. And once again, a heartfelt THANK YOU. May God continue to bless everyone here in our parish community.



GRACEFULLY TUNED

Musicians, who play stringed instruments such as violins and cellos, prefer “*tested strings*”. Tested strings are stretched and strained to remove all the unsteadiness – then they are put through a number of chemical tests, until eventually they produce a perfect and full tone. When installed and tuned in an instrument, *tested strings* bring out the full resonance and tone of that instrument. Melodies emanating from such a “graced” instrument are noticeably warmer and richer than music played on newer, *untested strings*.

We read in the Gospel that the disciples felt they were sinking on the stormy seas of Galilee – tested and stretched to the breaking point. The moment they *knew* they could no longer make it on their own – in that moment of becoming “*tested strings*” – they remembered the Master. They cried out to him for help and the full flow of Grace became possible. Jesus “*awoke*” – present and powerful in the midst of their struggle – but only after fear and trauma had stretched the disciples to a new resonance.

In the *testing, stretching, and stress* of our own lives; we discover the wisdom and courage to live lives of wholeness, compassion, and integrity. We know that, indeed, Jesus is present in our fear and in our struggles; just as he was present on the midst of the stormy seas of Galilee. It is often with hindsight that we realize he has been with us all along. Therefore it is not so surprising that someone can say: “*Cancer changed my life*”; or “*Lost love led me to find true love*”; or that one day we might be able to say that *this challenging moment in our own history held possibilities of grace and transformation for humanity*. Of course, no one seeks out these struggles; but somehow through them, we become aware of Jesus walking with us. We might take our eyes off him, but he does not take his eyes off of us! If we attune our hearts to seek the glimpses of grace along the way, we become ever more refined instruments – more capable of playing God’s melodies of kindness, gentleness, and forgiveness – melodies that resonate with the joy of knowing that even in the darkness, our God walks with us.

Just as the Prophet Elijah hears God speak in a deep interior silence, may we *listen* for the music of God’s heartbeat beating in time with our own. In this way we become ever-more attuned to that same great Heartbeat enlivening all creation with its melody of love. Let us “*Be Still and Listen*”

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