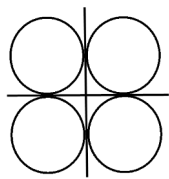


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

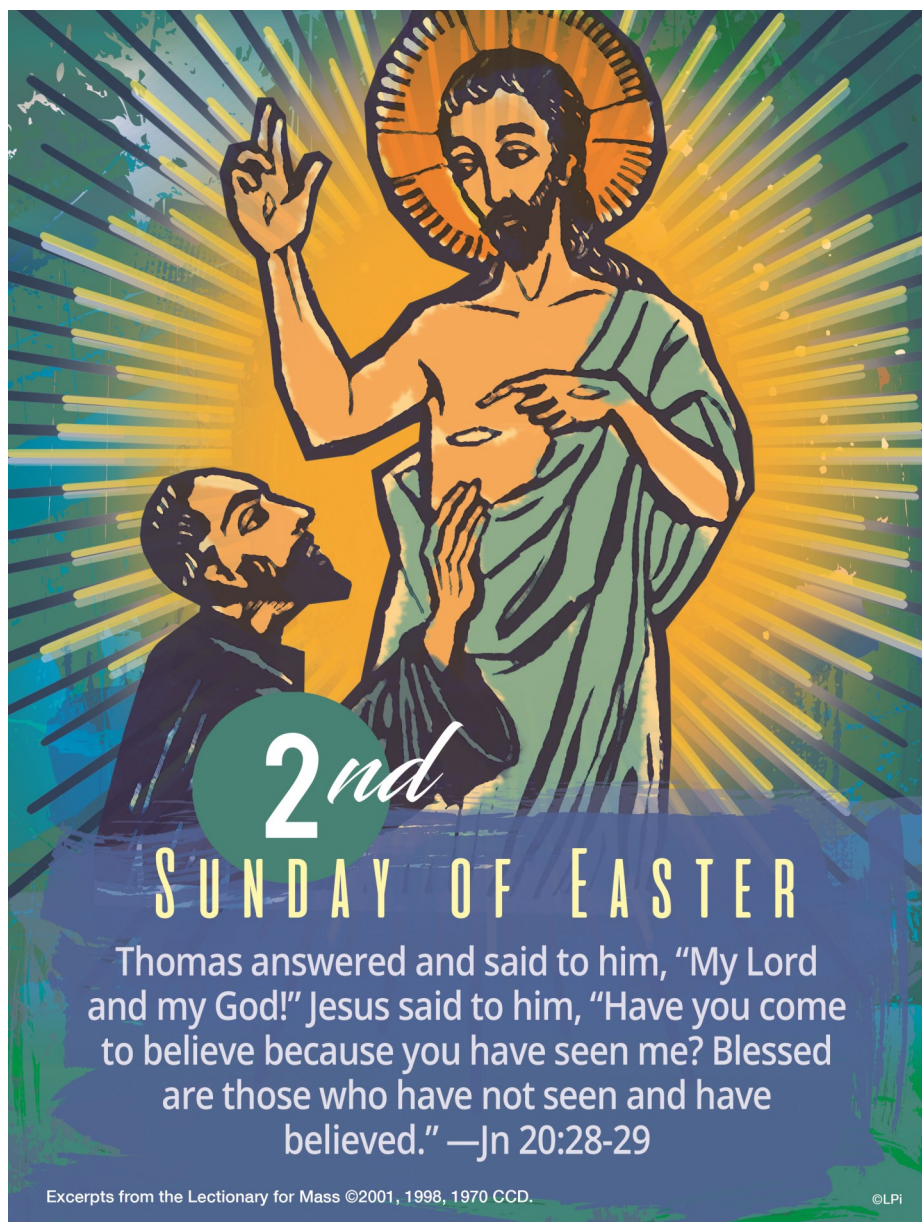


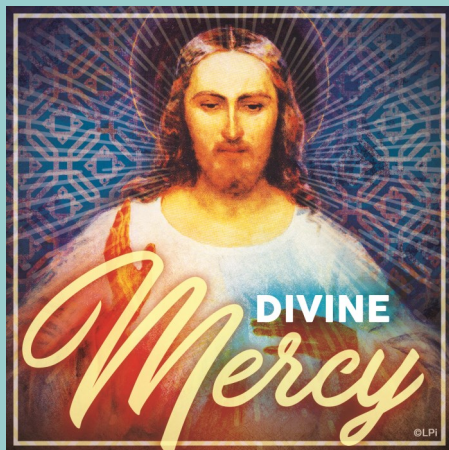
783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

April 19, 2020 Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Mission Statement

St Paul's Parish Family exists for the purpose of witnessing and proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ, that message proclaimed in word, worship, service: love God, love your neighbor as yourself.





Jesus, I Trust in You

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, so not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in our infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart and never let us escape from it. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy forever and ever.
Amen.



Parish Staff



Pastor: Fr. Paul Gitau
Deacon: Mark Robbins
Confirmation Prep. Coordinator: Bonnie Serio x27
Religious Ed. & Youth Coordinator: Sue Ward 671-2110
Business Manager: Robin Martz x30
Rectory Housekeeper: Helen Stirpe
Maintenance Coordinator: Ben O'Brien
Administrative Asst.: Jodie Hickey x21
Finance Council Chair: Tom Napoli 872-0678
Parish Council Chair: Paul Pumputis
Parish Trustees: Deb Urtz-Gleason & Dave Galeazzo
Multi Parish Finance Director:
 Joan Sullivan: 671-1100 x21

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 robin.martz@dor.org
 helen.stirpe@dor.org
 ben.obrien@dor.org
 jodie.hickey@dor.org
 tanapoli@live.com

joan.sullivan@dor.org

Office Contact Info

The staff is working remotely when possible. The best way to get a hold of us is via our email addresses above. If you cannot send an email and would prefer to call the office please do so and leave a message for Jodie x21 and she will forward the message along to the staff member you are trying to reach.

Phone: 671- 2100
Emergency Number: 369-9687
Website: www.stpaulsrcc.org
Diocese of Rochester: www.dor.org

Financial Snapshot

	March 2020	July 2019 - March 2020
Collections	35,039	409,380
Donations/ other revenue	3,519	52,272
Expenses	52,046	478,620
Operating surplus/deficit	-13,488	-16,968

March collections include three weekends of Masses.
 YTD collections include Christmas collections of \$16,938.
 St. Paul Church relies on the generous contributions of our parishioners to continue providing the programs and ministries of the parish.

Let Us Pray for Those in the Military



Jason Aman
 Zach Bartlett
 Bryan Gross
 Tom Weisenreder
 Mason Serrano
 Andrew Zani
 Jay Riesenberger

Josh Bartlett
 Sean Black
 Andrew O'Brien
 Cydney Blong
 Michael J. Desiato
 Daniel Thomas

This week the
 Sanctuary Lamp burns
 for
 August Jaeger
 From
 Kathy & Jodie

Seeds for the Journey

The Eyes of the Beholder

I wanted so much to write this article without mentioning the situation in our world. If you could have told me even two months ago the horror we've witnessed, the changes in our way of living, the feelings that we're experiencing, I would've told you, "I don't believe it." "Could never happen." I'd have to see it to believe it". "Not in our time." BUT, we are living history in the making – never been seen or done before! Unknown territory. I, for one, am empathizing with poor Thomas in today's Gospel reading.

Let's go back two months ago. Personally, my life was very stressful. I was tremendously busy, so much to do, balancing personal life with family, preparing for classes and Lenten activities, money worries, technology challenges, health concerns, negative vibes in the media regarding the economy, the election, the scandals, the lies, the latest accusations... exhausting.

So, in the midst of this pandemic, what's changed for me? My mantra has always been, "Find Joy." Where have I found joy? For one thing, prayer is a given now. The innumerable times I'm experiencing the kindness of my friends and neighbors, I say a prayer of gratitude for them. When I watch the courage and selflessness of medical professionals and their families, I say a prayer of gratitude and petition for strength for them. When I hear of the terrible stories of casualties due to the virus, I say a prayer of sympathy and comfort for the suffering.

And believe it or not, I've found technology to be a lifesaver both in my prayer experiences and in everyday life. I was blest to be a part of the drive through Adoration at St. Paul's. I prayed the stations with Pope Francis, took part in Sunday Masses with my family in Minnesota and California, participated in Holy Week liturgies with Fr. Paul and Deacon Mark. Connecting with the Confirmation youth and their families via emails and phone calls is providing a supportive network for us with a common goal of growing in faith. Pure joy!

And despite some big bumps such as family health concerns, tele-visits with physicians and conference calls with family on Zoom have been calming and encouraging. Despite isolation, visits with my NY family and friends while observing the social distancing guidelines in my garage and back yard are true gifts. Phone calls, friendly waves from passers-by, smiles of essential workers, hearing the familiar "Stay well", uplifting and funny messages on social media – all these...bring joy!

Tell me two months ago, that I would be writing about this...I would never have believed you. Like St. Thomas, I would have demanded visual and physical proof. Through this unbelievable life experience, I know Jesus is alive. Like Thomas, many of us need the physical body present, right in front of us. So...where is He in this nightmare? Open the eyes of your hearts and see some amazing things. See the loving Christ in the kindness of others, know the healing Christ in the unselfish work of medical professionals, observe the teaching Christ in the tireless efforts of educators and government officials. Find the joy of the living Christ in each other, in the simple beauty of nature, in the very fact that you are alive.

As I write this today, the news is cautiously hopeful, horrific death tolls are lessening, new cases of COVID-19 are fewer. My prayer is, with the help of God, as we slowly work our way back to life without COVID-19, we never forget this time of kindness, unselfish service, sacrifice, mutual respect and love for ourselves and others. With Jesus Christ, anything is possible. May we be filled with His joy. Amen.

Bonnie

A Challenge

We are very aware of the financial hardship you may be suffering during this difficult time. Please know that you are in our prayers and St. Paul's is here to help in any way that we are able. At the same time, please remember that our parish is funded solely through your contributions, which we rely on to pay our bills and continue our ministries.

We are very excited to tell you about a generous couple who have offered to match, dollar for dollar, whatever parishioners donate from Easter through the end of May, up to \$25,000. Donations to be matched include Offertory and Easter. We are grateful to them for encouraging and reminding us that through the help of the whole parish, we can get through this.

If you are able, we ask you to please consider helping us meet this wonderful challenge by mailing your donation to the parish, making your gift online through our web site or your bank, using the GivePlus mobile app, or by texting your gift. Details of giving options are below. Thank you!

We pray that you all remain healthy and safe and that soon we can emerge from this unsettling time and gather to worship our Lord together again!

Ways to Meet the Challenge

Go to our website (stpaulsrcc.org) and click on the DONATE link.

Or give through your bank's online bill pay feature.



Try the

GIVEPLUS⁺ MOBILE APP



To donate by text,
send your
contribution amount
to 833-931-1892



Mail your check:
St. Paul Church
783 Hard Road
Webster, NY 14580

Vacation Bible School Update

St. Paul's VBS 2020 has been cancelled due to our current situation with COVID-19. Every year we all look forward to VBS as your children bring so much fun and joy to St. Paul's. As it is a very hard decision, we are striving to keep everyone safe and healthy. If you have any questions, please contact Sue at susan.ward@dor.org

*"Praying the
Rosary together
as a family.
It's very beautiful
and it gives us
strength."*



Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

Victims of sexual abuse should always report to the civil authorities. To receive help and guidance from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Deborah Housel

585-328-3228 x1555

Toll-free: 1-800-388-7177 x 1555

Or by email, victimassistance@dor.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

Any concerns related to financial fraud can be reported anonymously:

Financial Fraud Hotline

1-800-388-7177 x1266

Reports may also be made in writing to:

Internal Audit Department—Diocese of Rochester
1150 Buffalo Road—Rochester, NY 14624

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WEST-ERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK In re Diocese of Rochester Case No. 19-20905

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, On September 12, 2019, the Diocese of Rochester ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). The Bankruptcy Court has established August 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "Bar Date"). If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any persons connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date. Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/rochesterdiocese> or call (855) 347-3773 for more information on how to file your proof of claim. **IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS MADE TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTOR'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.**

Masks are Needed at Catholic Family Center

Catholic Family Center has been absolutely blown away by the response we've received from the community to our call for help with masks! It has been humbling and inspiring to see how much people want to help in any way they can. The number of people who either volunteered or spread the word to others who could, has made this successful. We have people from all over the country making masks for us, showing both us and those we serve love and appreciation. Of our original 400 mask goal, we have collected over 500 masks!!!

With the CDC and New York State urging everyone to use a mask in public, our need has doubled. Our current goal is 800 masks and it may increase as we hear from more of our senior and medically fragile community members in need.

Therefore, Catholic Family Center once again raise the call for anyone who is able to make masks to please do so. Here is a link to the pattern we've been sharing <https://www.ecommunity.com/giveppe/homemade-mask-instructions>. There have been a lot of questions if it is okay to use a different pattern – the answer is absolutely! We've actually heard that there is an elastic shortage and that many people prefer the option to tie behind their head instead of the elastic that can irritate the skin of some. Please stay as true to a pattern as possible, but small adjustments are completely fine.

Below are the 4 drop off sites:

- St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center located at 417 S. Avenue. Phone 325-5260. Call when you arrive as doors are locked.
- St. Joseph's Church in Penfield, 43 Gebhardt Rd. Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., follow the Penfield Hope signs and there is a bin at the front door.
- St. Catherine's of Siena located at 26 Mendon Iona Rd. Hours are 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily, there is a bin located in the chapel located to the right of the church. Bin is on left when you enter.
- Sacred Heart Cathedral, located at 296 Flower City Park, Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; There is a bin on the north side of the building (Ridgeway Ave side) under the portico.

St. Paul's Good Sam Outreach is sponsoring this project. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Santora at 787-0426 or via email: esantora@rochester.rr.com. Thank you!



FIRST READING

They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (Acts 2:46b-47a)

PSALM

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118) or Alleluia

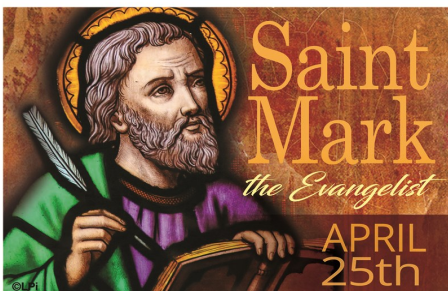
SECOND READING

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Pt 1:3-9)

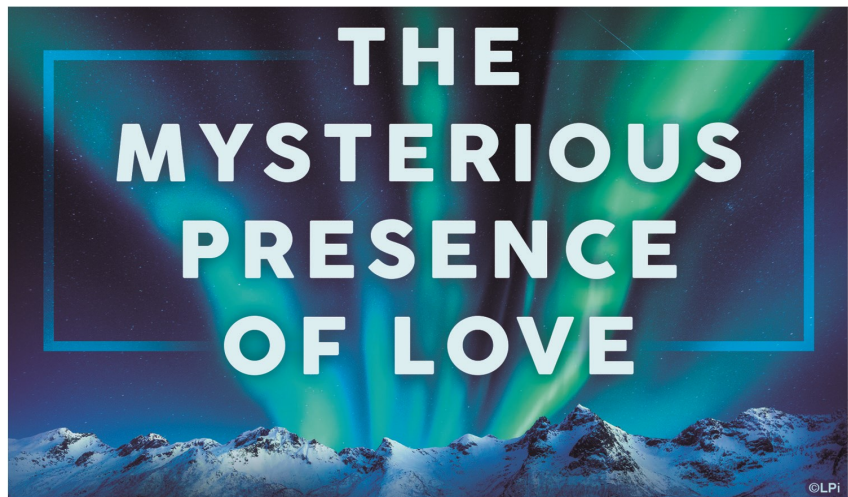
GOSPEL

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (Jn 20:19-31)

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WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.