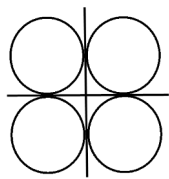


ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



783 Hard Road, Webster, New York

May 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Pray for Vocations



O God, Father of all Mercies, provider of a bountiful harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of You. Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your holy will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord.

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

fr.paul.gitau@dor.org
 mark.robbins@dor.org
 bonnie.serio@dor.org
 susan.ward@dor.org
 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/	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
 Norb Keller
 From
 Daughter, Sue

Seeds for the Journey

On this weekend we would have been celebrating Holy Communion for the first time with our second graders. They have been waiting so anxiously and preparing so diligently, with the help and guidance of their parents, that I wanted to give the space of this *Seeds* article to our First Communicants and their parents as a celebration before the Celebration. When I asked the students what Holy Communion means to them, and the parents what the experience of First Communion was like for them, this is what some of them wanted to share with us:

Chris Yuskiw said Holy Communion will mean so much to him because "It's the Body and Blood of Christ, and when I eat it and drink it, I am blessed by Jesus." When his mom Kim asked why he was looking forward to his First Communion, Chris responded, "I've been looking forward to it my whole life!" Kim added, "When he said that it reminded me of the kids' table and the adults' table at family gatherings. It's the excitement that you are finally ready to take a seat at the table with everybody else."

Katie Maier is looking forward to her First Communion so that she can "be with God." Her brother Mikey, who made his First Communion last year, said he misses having Communion because "it makes me feel part of the church." Their mom Tracy shared this: "I went to Catholic school, so my entire second grade class made their First Communion all at the same time. I remember my classmates and I were sitting in chairs on the altar. That was a little bit scary because everyone in the congregation could see us. We had practiced receiving the Eucharist many times in school, and I remember feeling on the day of my First Communion excitement because the time for the "real thing" had finally come. Now, I was able to do something that the grownups could do. It was a great sense of belonging to the church community at large."

Zach Nuwer has a sense of how Communion prepares you for the mission of Jesus Christ: "Communion is when you eat the Body of Jesus and drink his Blood. Then, you truly become God's servant. I want Jesus to be a part of me." His sister Gabby, who is in fifth grade, reflects that in Holy Communion "you get to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus enters your body and forgives your sins. It makes me feel good to know that my sins are forgiven and to know Jesus is now a part of me." Their mom Melissa, who also teaches our second-grade class on Sunday, added this: "Holy Communion is the time when I feel closest to Jesus. Saying the Act of Contrition before receiving Communion clears my conscience. Then, after taking the Body and Blood of Christ, I feel a sense of community with others in the church. Receiving Holy Communion makes me want to be a better Christian and person. The physical act of taking the Body and Blood of Jesus tells me that Jesus is with me and he wants me to do his work."

Ellen Baniak, whose third grade daughter Tessa made her First Communion last year, was moved to share with us the pain of separation from the physicality of the Sacrament that we are all feeling at this time: "This question [what your experience of Holy Communion has been] struck a chord with me personally. It was during the third week of our "pause," while watching the Bishop celebrate Mass, that I broke down crying as he was blessing the gifts, and I realized it might be a while before I would be able to physically receive Communion again. While the Bishop talked about the fact that we can still virtually/spiritually receive it, there is something about taking those steps up to the altar and accepting Communion, knowing that you are asking Jesus to be a part of you, both spiritually and physically, and knowing that He gave His life so that we would have the forgiveness necessary to share in that moment with him is an incredible thing."

We are humbled by the spirit and the pure beauty of all these sentiments. Our hearts thank you all for reminding us of why we love the Eucharist and why we suffer in the soul at the loss of our Communion—with Jesus in the Sacrament, and with one another as the community of believers.

Please know, First Communicants, that we are holding you in our hearts and praying for you. I think you must be very special children, because God is making the rest of us wait and purify ourselves and pray before we are ready to be at the Table of the Lord with you.

God bless you,

Sue

Challenge Update

As you know we have been challenged by a generous local couple who will match offertory and Easter donations through the end of May, up to \$25,000.

Our parishioners have responded wonderfully because as of April 30, we have received over \$19,000 in these donations!

Thank you to all who are able to continue to support the parish through this time of uncertainty. This is a tremendous help as we continue the maintenance of our facility with the obvious goal of welcoming everyone back. We also have a limited staff on payroll who keep everything running.

Giving options include 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 these options are below.

Through the generous support of our parishioners we will be back soon worshipping together! Thank you!

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

Mother's Day Memorials/Flowers

Thank you to all who donated towards Easter flowers/memorials for their loved ones. We are continuing our tradition of offering Mother's Day flower memorials this year. We will print the names in the bulletin and also online on our website. Envelopes went out in the May/June packets, or you may donate through our web site. Additionally, you may email Robin at robin.martz@dor.org or Jodie at Jodie.hickey@dor.org with the info. Please include who the memorial is for as well as who it is from. Even though we can't be together for Mother's Day, we will be joined by our prayers!



Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

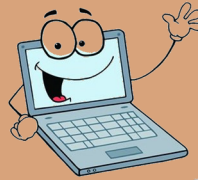
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive you sacramentally,
please come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you now
as if you were already there
and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me
to be separated from you.
Amen.

Stay Connected!



Lots of additional information is available on **St. Paul's web site**, stpaulsrcc.org. Below are a few important items you might want to check out:

- Watch Sunday mass
- Read the weekly bulletin
- Donate online
- Request a Mother's Day flower memorial
- Contact a staff member
- Get the latest updates on rescheduled events after the quarantine.

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 person 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.**

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

Peter said to them,
"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name
of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you
will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
(Ps 23) or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross,
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Pt 2:24)

GOSPEL:

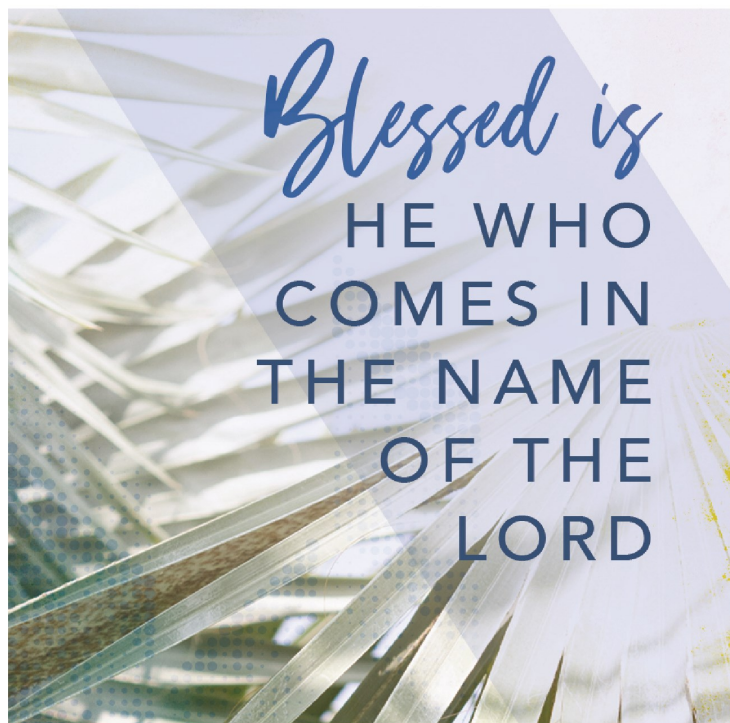
"I am the gate.
Whoever enters through me will be saved,
and will come in and go out and find pasture." (Jn 10:9)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3, 2020

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Tuesday: Cinco de Mayo
Thursday: National Day of Prayer
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day



IN
GOD'S
PLAN,

NOTHING
HAPPENS
BY CHANCE.

—ST. JOHN PAUL II

REFLECT

FIRST READING

Luke tells us that Peter often testified: "Save yourself from this corrupt generation." How is this message still applicable today?

SECOND READING

Peter asserts that the virtue of patience in one's suffering is a grace from God because Jesus modeled patient suffering. How does the exercise of this spiritual disposition help bring peace of mind?

GOSPEL READING

Using the metaphor of sheep and gatekeeper, Jesus teaches his disciples the importance of remaining focused on his voice. Why do you think people are so easily distracted from other voices?