

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D., ED.D., PSY.D., PASTOR

REVEREND PATRICK KANE, PAROCHIAL VICAR

REVEREND THOMAS KELLY, PAROCHIAL VICAR



JESUS RAISES LAZARUS
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, March 26, 2023

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, March 25 - Vigil – 5th Sunday of Lent

4:00pm OLOP + Alicia Pettola
by Peter Pettola
4:30pm SVDP + Mary Ellen Corso
by Diane Carr & Daughters

SUNDAY, March 26 – 5th Sunday of Lent

8:00am OLOP + Steven & Joseph Ohidy
by Diane
9:00am ST. B + Joseph DeMatteo, Sr. (8th Anni.)
by Family
10:00am OLOP + Dorothy Scussel
by Scussel Family
11:15am SVDP + Nicola Piscitelli
by Carusone Family

MONDAY, March 27 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Anna Vecchio
by Husband & Children
8:00am SVDP + William & Vera Scott
by Frank Cavallaro

TUESDAY, March 28 – Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Anthony Mauro
by Vittorio Family
8:00am SVDP + Carole Kelly
by Frank Cavallaro

WEDNESDAY, March 29 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Florence Parisi
by Porto Funeral Home
8:00am SVDP + James Sommo
by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home

THURSDAY, March 30 - Weekday

8:00am OLOP + Maureen Leary Minnick
by Lisa Leary
8:00am ST. B + Living & Deceased Mem.
of Mahoney Family
by Patricia Mahoney

FRIDAY, March 31 - Weekday

8:00am ST. B + Eleanor Onofrio (Anni.)
by Family

SATURDAY, April 1 - First Saturday

8:00am ST. B + Constance Pietrosimone
by Fimiani Family

SATURDAY, April 1 - Vigil – Palm Sunday

4:00pm OLOP + Anthony Monaco, Sr.
by Scussel Family
4:30pm SVDP + Millie Lembo
by Catherine

SUNDAY, April 2 – Palm Sunday

8:00am OLOP + AnnMarie Murasso (7th Anniversary)
9:00am ST. B + Lucy Savo
by Family
10:00am OLOP + Joseph M. Duffy
by Family
11:15am SVDP + Eric Bennett & Melissa Klein
by Family

STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection	\$9,613.00
Catholic Relief Services Collection	\$3,435.00
Online Giving	\$0.00

April 1 & 2 Second Collection: Monthly

Thank you to the many of you who have been so generous and responsive in these difficult times.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/
Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,
33b-45
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-
62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21
-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55,
56/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn
10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn
11:45-56

CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Our Lady of Pompeii: Saturday at 3:00-3:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul: Saturday at 3:30-4:00pm

SILENCE.

Please, be mindful that many parishioners arrive early prior to the start of Mass in order to sit reflectively with the LORD in prayer. Please, be mindful of the level of your voice and that voices carry from the back of the church to the front. Please, maintain a subdued tone when speaking so that other's quiet time is not disturbed.



Holy Hour
Come spend time in
the presence of Jesus.

Every Monday, immediately following morning Mass at Our Lady of Pompeii, there is one hour of **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish

Address: 355 Foxon Road, East Haven, CT 06513

Phone Number: (203) 469-0764

Office Hours:

Foxon Road: Mon-Fri 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

Taylor Avenue: Mon. & Fri. 10:00-2:00

E-Mail: stpioofpietrelcina@gmail.com

MINISTRY & EVENT CALENDAR

<p>SUNDAY, MARCH 26 No Events or Activities Scheduled</p>	<p>SUNDAY, APRIL 2 No Events or Activities Scheduled</p>
<p>MONDAY, MARCH 27 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - 5:00pm at SVDP Church Confessions - 6:00pm at SVDP Church Ladies' Guild Meeting - 7:00pm at OLOP Church Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823</p>	<p>MONDAY, APRIL 3 Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - 5:00pm at SVDP Church Confessions - 6:00pm at SVDP Church Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823</p>
<p>TUESDAY, MARCH 28 Rosary - 6:30pm at SB Church Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>TUESDAY, APRIL 4 Chrism Mass - 11:00am at St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Offices Closed Rosary - 6:30pm at SB Church Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>
<p>THURSDAY, MARCH 30 Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>THURSDAY, APRIL 6 - Holy Thursday Parish Offices Closed Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00pm</p>
<p>FRIDAY, MARCH 31 Stations of the Cross - 1:00pm at OLOP Church Stations of the Cross - 5:30pm at SB Church Simple Supper Pick Up - 6:00pm at SB Convent Living Stations of the Cross - 7:00pm at SVDP Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8</p>	<p>FRIDAY, APRIL 7 - Good Friday Parish Offices Closed Passion of the Lord - 3:00pm Stations of the Cross - 5:30pm at SB Church Simple Supper Pick Up - 6:00pm at SB Convent Stations Thru the Eyes of Mary - 7:00pm at SVDP</p>
<p>SATURDAY, APRIL 1 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center</p>	<p>SATURDAY, APRIL 8 - Holy Saturday Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center Blessing Easter Bread - 9:30am at St. Vincent de Paul Confessions - 10:00-11:00am at St. Vincent de Paul</p>

Lenten Regulations for Fasting and Abstinence

Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat.

Norms for Fasting

The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence

Ladies Guild

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies' Guild
Military Whist

Friday, May 5, 2023

Doors open at 6:00pm
Games begin at 7:00pm

Tickets: \$10.00

Tickets will be available at the church office or text/call Christine Sandford at 203-804-8682 or email cpsandford@gmail.com

The Candles burn this week for these special intentions:

Our Lady of Pompeii Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of Billy Richmond & For All the Souls in Purgatory
Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~ In Memory of the Mauro & Elko Families
Chapel ~ Mary Miller by Family
Sacred Heart of Jesus ~
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~
Our Lady of Pompeii Picture ~ MaryAnn Peterson by Lorraine Burns

St. Vincent de Paul Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ In Memory of the Balzano & Avitable Families
Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) - In Memory of Ronald Paolillo
Our Lady's Altar ~
St. Joseph's Altar ~ James Sommo, Jr. by Family;
 Robert Gargano, Jr. by Joe, Carol & Nate Silva

St. Bernadette Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~
Sanctuary Lamp (Left Side) ~

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Nick Vessicchio, Sally Ann Fallon, Lynette Ely, David T. Boyle, Richard Lucibello, Carmel Ferretti, Bryan Surprenant, Sharon Spadacenta, Marie & Charles Zambrano, Helen Langello, Brian Savo, Gerry Andrea, Alan Poirier, Connie Rasimas, Jane Pyka, Harry Clark, Lou DiNola, Geraldine Licciardi, Joanne Cretella, Joseph Anyzeski, Fran Sofo, Elizabeth Kuen, Deborah Sanning, Paula Ferrara, Tina Marie Fionia, Joseph Parise, Frank DelGrego, Moira Ferguson, Danielle Joubert, Frances Polaski, Pauline Condon, Rose Anna Izzo, Angelo DeMatteo, Patricia Aulenti, Michael Pascale, Alyce Richmond, Mark Schettino, Patty DiMilo, Rose Rogalski, Elaine Smith, Karen Rescigno, Virginia Pisano, DJ DiVincenzo, Sgt. Anthony Rybaruk, Philip & Sally DeMilo, Anna Concelmo, Anna Marie Nappi, Brian Higney, Rich Tortora, Denise Bailey, Joseph Peterson, Marion Mahl, Paula Ruddock, Pamela Willis, Laura Luzzi, Brian Wilson, Maureen Redmond, Kristianne Argentino, Shirley Perrelli, Bill Izzo, Andrew & Catherine Criscuolo, Patricia Miles, Joe Coscia, Deborah Verab, Dona Marie, Louis Messina, Christina Meoli, Michelle Smith, Ron Mattei, Angela Riccio, Charlene Tantalo, Al Forgione, Gabriella Garrity, Beverly Fucci, W.D. Merkle, Phyllis Anastasio, Cheryl Barbara, Carmine DelBasso, Laura-Phyllis Esposito, Diana Vitelli O'Brien, Meghan Keeney, Gennaro Milone, Jo Vuolo, Felicia DeRoche, Marilyn Kozin, Mike Barnett, Richard Costanzo, Carole & Frank Casapulla, Gerrie Amendola, Michael Bowen, Linda Montone, Mary Diamante, Carol Esposito, Fred & Barbara Brow, Christopher Farrell, Roberta Sanders-Gray, Jeannette Winston, Marilyn Sisson, Ryder Feeley, Theodore Siwinski, Michael Enders, Nicholas Cerillo, Edwina Cinque, John Soleski, Rudolph Pohlman, Linda Esposito, Renee Flynn, The Cooper Family, Rosemary Riccitelli, Lynn Ely, Ethan Roche, Frances Graney, Barbara Kapusta, Megan Maturo, Rose Paula Dziedulonis, Roma Criscuolo, Taras Mychajlowskyj, Denise Steiner, Mary Ann Anastasio, Guy Brasile, Gloribeth R., Stacie Bouchard, Daija Diaz, Al Sappinetti, Guy Racino, Michael Polaski, Martha Catel, Eddie Villecco, Isaiah Colville, Jennie Nazario, Joan Proto, Caitlin Rustic, Michael Filion, John Torello, Mauro Antonio Bezanilla, Matteo Criscuolo, Robert Filion, Lucy Carbone, Dorene Izzo, Lucille Palange, Carmine Riccitelli, Sr., Louise Amato, Mark Houston, Avery Bye, Mark Palmisano, Alex Bernaitis, Vincent Pisano, Ann Hamilton, Camilla Palmieri, Barbara Bellucci, Michael Bulger, Joseph Bonie, Mary Katherine Hart, Billy Carr, Andrea Pepe, Anna Sabatino, Audrey Elder, Theresa Polio

Please send prayer requests to stpiofpietrelcina@gmail.com so that our parishioners and friends can be remembered in our prayers.

**Midnight Run
Taylor Avenue Campus**

The Midnight Run for **April** is the **2nd Monday**, which is **April 10th**. Donations of brown bag lunches, water, juice boxes and toiletries are appreciated. These donations can be dropped off to Sue Stacey's home, 82 Forbes Place, up until 7pm on **Monday, April 10th**. Thank you and God bless you for all donations. Stay safe & well.

**Midnight Run
Foxon Road Campus**

On the last Monday of each month, we bring 75 bagged lunches to the Columbus House Overflow Shelter.

Donations Needed:

ShopRite Gift Cards or
 Gallon Size Ziploc Bags
 Quart Size Ziploc Bags
 Peanut Butter & Jelly
 Juice Pouches
 Raisin Boxes
 Fruit Cups & Pudding Cups
 Granola Bars

Individual Packaged Cookies, Crackers or Chips

We are also looking for small amounts or full skeins of yarn, it will be used to make hats and scarves for the midnight run. Please leave your donations at any entrance of the church. Thank you.

Midnight Run is the **LAST** Monday of **EVERY** month from Our Lady of Pompeii Church from 6-7 pm. Thank-you for being so generous!



St. Bernadette Food Pantry located at the East Shore Senior Center is open every Saturday from 10:00am-11:00am. We are always in need of non-perishable foods. Top choices are, canned: tomatoes, tomato sauce, vegetables, tuna fish, soups and fruits. Pasta, mac & cheese and peanut butter. Consumption guidelines provided to us from the CT

Food Bank: Expiration/Code Date Extensions past expiration: high acid foods (i.e. tomatoes) 12-18 months. Low acid foods (canned meat, most vegetables) 2-5 years. Food in jars, 12 months past expiration, dry cereal 6-12 months, rice/pasta (dry) 1 year. Questions, please contact Deb or Rico at 203-468-7489



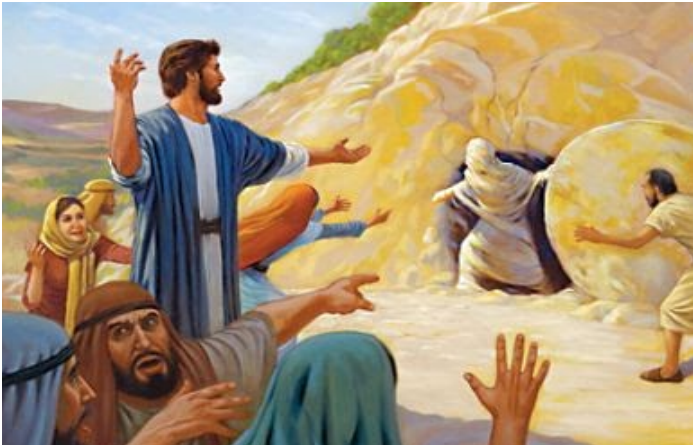
THE EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY is asking for snack items for school children the month of February and continuing through Lent. Items include granola bars (no peanuts), fruit snacks, goldfish, small boxes of cereal, individual mac & cheese, etc. Please leave your donations of food at the church entrances.

The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00am-11:00am on Saturdays & Tuesdays for East Haven residents.

For more info call Christine Sandford 203-469-7823

From the Pen of Fr. M.
Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D., Ed.D., Psy.D.

Lazarus and the Gift of Life
(John 11:1-45)



On this fifth Sunday of Lent, St. John takes us to Bethany, near Jerusalem to witness yet another miracle performed by Jesus. This miracle is focused on the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Unlike the Samaritan woman and the man born blind, both of whom Jesus did not know prior to his encounter, Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary were the best friends of Jesus.

Consistent with St. John's literary technique, the real miracle takes place in the *faith response* of the recipient or recipients. In the raising of Lazarus, however, the real miracle is not seen in the young man being brought back to life. Rather, the miracle is directed to the *faith* of the sisters of Lazarus and the faith of the skeptical onlookers who had come to mourn at the tomb.

Martha and Mary as well as the Samaritan woman and the blind man respond to Jesus' invitation to embark upon a journey in faith as they emerge from their own personal deserts and as they emerge into the *Light* of faith. Jesus embodies the *Light*. The raising of Lazarus merely provides the setting in which real faith is *re-kindled* in the lives of the onlookers as they discover the healing presence of a tangible God.

The Samaritan Woman

Two weeks ago, on the third Sunday of Lent, our journey took us to Samaria as we watched and listened as Jesus engaged the Samaritan woman in a conversation that changed her life forever. The real miracle took place after the woman returned to her community. Having received *Living Water*, the woman was then able to communicate to the townsfolk that which she had received: Truth in a spirit of *re-discovered* faith in God.



The Samaritan woman steps out from the darkness of her sinful past into the *Light* of faith. The woman's brief encounter with Jesus, her conversation and her questions provide insight into her life in the same way that *prayer* provides insight to our lives. Once discovered, the woman is given the necessary graces to act on her *re-discovered* faith; she then becomes an instrument of hope in the lives of her friends and neighbors.

"Many Samaritans from that city believed in him [Jesus] because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I ever have done'" (John 4:39).

The woman's *faith response* results not only in her experience of *Living Water*, which led her to *re-discover* and to *re-kindle* her love for God. Her newly cultivated faith provides her with a renewed desire for *re-discovering* meaning and a new purpose for living. The Samaritan woman's faith response earned her *Discipleship*, in contrast to the twelve apostles who although more familiar with Jesus, did not understand who Jesus really was or the purpose of his ministry.

The Man Born Blind



Last Sunday, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, Jesus revealed himself not as *Living Water* but as *Light* that dispels darkness. This is a darkness that results not only from the deprivation of physical sightedness, but a darkness that seizes the soul; thus, renders man spiritually sightless. On the fourth Sunday of Lent, John recounted the story of the man who having been blind from birth has his physical sight restored because of the strength of his spiritual vision.

The healing of the man born blind is not only a story about the miracle of physical sight and the increase of one man's faith; it also serves as an indictment for those who refuse to live their lives with faith in God as their barometer. Such individuals sentence themselves to lives lived in the absence of *Light* and *Truth*; thus, take their places among the *spiritually blind* and the *living dead*.

**The Eyes are
Useless When
the Mind
is Blind.**

The story of the man born blind focuses our attention not so much on the physical condition of being sightless, as much as it focuses on the power of one man's faith whose propensity for *Truth* enables him to see spiritually what most who are sighted never see. In other words, the man's physical blindness as John describes it, is secondary to his *faith response* and what eventually becomes a *re-kindling* of his human spirit.

The blind man's restored sight becomes a powerful metaphor for what happens when man discovers a *Jesus-centered* meaning to his life; he begins to see himself and others through a *spiritually-sighted* lens. John describes the man's movement from the state of physical sightlessness to sight, while at the same time describing the immobile opposition of the Pharisees and the apostles who while in possession of their physical sight, remain spiritually blind to the *Truth*.

What began as a physical restoration of sight leads to the *re-discovery* of God's benevolence in and through the ministry of the Son. The *re-discovery* of God's *Life* leads to the re-kindling of meaning. Meaning provides man with the needed insight into purpose; thus, purpose leads to self-transcendence: a doing for others and the *re-discovery* of a new mission in life. Like the Samaritan woman, the blind man was sent back into the marketplace as a disciple giving witness to the *Truth*: Jesus is Truth.

Martha, Mary and Lazarus

On this Sunday, the fifth Sunday of Lent, Jesus is revealed as *Life*. Those who receive the gift of *Life* because of their belief in Jesus will never die a spiritual death. *Life* for John is equated with eternal life, and eternal life comes about as a result of one's acceptance of Jesus as the Incarnate God who is *Truth*, *Living Water* and *Light*. In other words, eternal life is bestowed as a reward for acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah and God. The acknowledgement of such is not withheld until the end of man's earthly existence. Rather, access and experience of eternal life are bestowed to man while he lives in the world to the degree that he looks at life through a *spiritually-sighted* lens.



When man opens his heart to receive God's gift of *Life* as was true for the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and Martha and Mary, man is given a glimpse of eternal life in the here-and-now, and the graces that assist him on his journey in the world.

The Hidden God

Once man is in possession of *Truth*, he begins to look at the meaning of his existence in an entirely different way. In other words, once man puts on the lens that enables him to look at his surroundings defined by his faith in God, he begins to view life and others less critically.



He begins to see that life has meaning despite the crises of the moment or the dilemma of the day. Man's life and his life-choices are seen in a new way and actually become an extension of a *re-discovered* faith in something beyond himself. Having received a new perspective for living and realizing that the *Hidden God* within is no longer hidden, he then goes forward as a disciple of the *Word*, having embraced a new purpose for living and doing and being.

The Real Miracle

For John, the real miracle takes place *not* with the raising of Lazarus. The real miracle takes hold when *re-discovered* faith in God begins to emerge on the part of Martha and Mary as well as with the mourners who witness Lazarus' resurrection. The Light of faith, although faint, begins to take hold in the lives of the apostles as they begin to grapple with the illness of Lazarus and Jesus' *apparent* refusal to go to Lazarus upon hearing of his death.

The Death of Lazarus

The account opens with John indicating that a friend of Jesus, named Lazarus is very ill. John is very clear that Lazarus and his sisters were very important to Jesus. John indicates that Jesus *loved* the three very much. Although the word, *love* is the same in the English language, John describes the love between Jesus and his friends using two different Greek words. John indicates that, "*The sisters sent word to him [Jesus], saying, 'Master, the one that you love (philia) is ill.'*" (John 11:3).

The Greek word *philia* is translated to mean friendship. The Greeks had three different words to describe love:

Eros is erotic love and is considered the lowest of the three kinds of love, suggesting a sexual, physical love.

Philia is the second kind of love and is translated as love that exists between friends; a love that is expressed in mutual admiration and respect. It also suggests a caring concern for the other. *Philia* is used to describe the love that exists between a parent and a child.

Agape is the third and highest kind of love, which describes a selfless, unconditional love in which there is no merit involved for the recipient to receive such love. Christ's death on the cross is a good example of *agape*. As followers of Jesus, each is expected to demonstrate *agape* in his/her relationship with others.

Egapa is *agape* used in the past tense. It is used in v. 5 to describe a deeper and more purposeful love than the word *agape* in the present tense, which was the word that the sisters used in their message to Jesus. "*Now Jesus loved (egapa) Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he [Jesus] heard that he [Lazarus] was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was*" (John 11:5-6).

Until we understand the translation of the word *egapa*, in v. 5, the sentence in v. 6 appears awkward; it does not logically make sense. Upon hearing the news, why did Jesus wait two additional days? Would it not make sense if the sentence read in the following manner: “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, so when he [Jesus] heard that he [Lazarus] was ill he left immediately to be by Lazarus’ side.”



At face value, it makes sense that if a loved-one or close friend is asking for help by notifying a relative or friend that he/she is very ill, the last thing the individual would do is to delay getting to the sick person. To say that Jesus *loved* the trio so much that he took his time getting there appears not to make sense. Or does it?

It is no accident that in v. 5, John uses the Greek word *egapa* as opposed to *philia*, used in v.4. *Egapa* is translated as a higher love; a love that is directed to a higher calling; a love that tests one’s faith in preparation for a particular calling or a special mission. In other words, God is the guiding force here. Not going immediately to the two sisters, Martha and Mary was Jesus’ way of *preparing* the sisters to receive from God something far greater than the healing or raising of their brother Lazarus.

Jesus was preparing the women to receive a special faith; a faith that would require a response that would reach far beyond themselves and affect perspective believers. Jesus was preparing them for a *faith-response* that would change their lives forever and the lives of all those who would come into contact with them.

Jesus loves (*agape*) his children so much. He also loves (*egapa*) his children with a love that patiently nurtures, cultivates and promotes insight for *re-discovering* again and again who Jesus really is in relation to who we are and where we need to go in our relationship with him and with one other.

Something to Ponder



How often have we consistently prayed for something important either for ourselves or for another? The more we prayed, the more silent God appeared to be. In the midst of what we may have considered to be a *Silent or Absent God*, suddenly without notice or warning, things begin to turn around for us.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, we appear to have strength that we never realized we had. Suddenly, we realize that it was precisely this *re-discovered* strength; human nature cooperating with God’s grace that enabled us to forge ahead and to get us through the darkness into the Light of a brand-new day.

As we look back at such an experience, we realize that although we may not have received what we thought we needed at the time, somehow, we received so much more. Perhaps we were given greater insight into ourselves, our needs, desires, responsibilities, etc. Consequently, insight may have served as a purposeful indicator for a change in attitude or behavior, not only in light of our immediate prayer request, but for all our future endeavors.

Apostles Question Jesus

The episode continues as the apostles press Jesus for answers about Lazarus’ sickness. Jesus tells them that Lazarus is dead, but there is hope because Lazarus did not die in vain. “When Jesus heard this, he said, ‘This illness is not to end in death but it is for the glory of God, that the Son of Man might be glorified through it’” (John 11:4).

The “it” here refers to the death of Lazarus. The glory of God, which is manifested through Jesus is the *hallmark* of St. John’s theology.

“So, then Jesus said to them clearly, ‘Lazarus has died, and I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe’” (John 11:14-15).

Jesus is described in the above verse as being *glorified* in order that the Father may bring about the accomplishment of His will. Jesus is *glorified not* in the sense of being praised by the viewer but rather, it is through his *healing ministry* leading to his death that his glorification will be realized.

Jesus clearly states, “I am glad for you that I was not there, that you might believe” (John 11:14-15).

Believe what? It was as important for the early community in the time of John as it is for us who live in the 21st century to *recognize* that whoever receives the *gift of Life* in Jesus will never die a spiritual death.

Life means eternal life...because life lived in *Truth* is a life that reflects Jesus Christ. This is the message of John; it is the message of the desert/mountain experience; it is the message of our Lenten journey; it is the message of our journey through life as a Christian woman and a Christian man. JNM





From the Pen of the Parish Nurse
Kimberly Petrillo, R.N.

Marijuana (Cannabis) & Health

There has been much conversation about *cannabis* and marijuana products leading up to, and after the legalization of marijuana in Connecticut. What exactly is Marijuana? marijuana refers to the dried leaves, flowers, stems and seeds from the *Cannabis sativa* or *Cannabis Indica* plant. The plant contains the mind-altering chemical THC and other similar compounds. The *cannabis* plant contains more than 100 compounds (or cannabinoids). CBD is an active compound that is not impairing, which means that it does not cause a “high.” Extracts can be made from the *cannabis* plant.



According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, *cannabis* is one of the most used drugs in the U.S., and its use is widespread among young people. In 2021, 35.4% of young adults aged 18 to 25 (11.8 million people) reported marijuana use. In 2022, 30.7% of 12th graders reported using marijuana in the past year and 6.3% reported using marijuana daily.

In addition to the use of *cannabis*, many young people also reported using vaping devices to consume *cannabis* products. In 2022, nearly 20.6% of 12 graders reported vaping marijuana and 2.1% reported that they vaped daily.

Using Marijuana

People smoke marijuana in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints) or in pipes or water pipes (bongs). They smoke it in blunts- emptied cigars that have been partly or completely refilled with marijuana. To avoid inhaling smoke, some people use vaporizers. These devices pull the active ingredients (including THC) from the marijuana and collect their vapor in a storage unit. A person then inhales the vapor, not the smoke. Some vaporizers use a liquid marijuana extract. It is also possible to mix marijuana in food (edibles) such as brownies, cookies, candy or brew it as a tea. A newly popular method of use is smoking or eating different forms of THC-rich resins.

Marijuana Extracts

Smoking THC-rich resins extracted from the marijuana plant is on the rise. People call this practice “dabbing.” These extracts come in various forms, such as: Hash oil or honey oil – a gooey liquid, wax or budder- a soft solid with a texture like lip balm, shatter – a hard, amber colored solid.



These extracts can deliver large amounts of THC to the body and their use has sent some individuals to the emergency room. Another danger is preparing these extracts, which usually involves butane (lighter fluid). A number of individuals have caused fires and explosions and have been seriously burned from using butane to make extracts in the home setting.

Short & Long-Term Effects

In the months and days leading up to the legalization of Marijuana, few advocates for its legalization were speaking about the short-term and long-term effects that marijuana has on the brain.

When a person smokes marijuana, THC passes from the lungs into the bloodstream. The blood carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body. The body absorbs THC more slowly when the person eats or drinks it. In that case, the effects are felt after 30 minutes to 1 hour. The THC over- acts upon certain specific brain cell receptors. These natural chemicals play a role in normal brain development and function. Marijuana over activates parts of the brain that contain the highest number of these receptors. This causes the “high” that people feel. Other effects include:

- Altered senses (example seeing brighter colors).
- Altered sense of time.
- Changes in one’s mood.
- Impaired body movement.
- Difficulty with thinking and problem- solving.
- Impaired memory.
- Hallucinations (when taken in high doses).
- Delusions (when taken in high doses).
- Psychosis (risk is the highest with regular use of high potency marijuana).

Marijuana Use Disorder

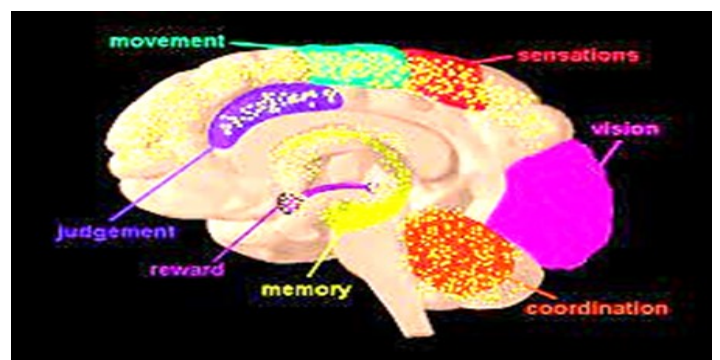
For some, marijuana like alcohol and tobacco can be a gateway drug, leading to other drug use or addictions. *Marijuana Use Disorder* refers to an individual who is unable to stop using marijuana even though it is causing health problems and is impacting the individual’s social/relational skills.

A recent study estimates that approximately 3 in 10 people who use marijuana have a *Marijuana Use Disorder*. The risk of developing this disorder is stronger in people who start using marijuana during youth and who use marijuana more frequently.

Effects of Marijuana on Health

Physical effects include:

- Breathing problems. Marijuana smoke irritates the lungs; thus, the people who smoke marijuana frequently can have the same breathing problems as those who smoke tobacco. The problems include a daily cough, phlegm, more frequent lung illness, and higher risk of lung infections. It is important to note that cannabis smoke is qualitatively similar to tobacco smoke, although it contains up to twice the concentration of the carcinogenic polyaromatic hydrocarbons.



- Epidemiological evidence for an association between *cannabis* and lung cancer is limiting and conflicting. Researchers continue to study longer term risks for developing lung cancer as a result of frequent marijuana inhalation from smoking or vaping.
- Increased heart rate. Marijuana raises heart rate for up to 3 hours after smoking. This may increase the chance of having a heart attack. Older people and those with heart problems may be at a higher risk. Marijuana can elevate blood pressure immediately after use. It could lead to increased risk of stroke, heart disease and other vascular diseases.
- Intense nausea and vomiting. Regular, long term marijuana use can lead some people to develop what is referred to as *Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome*. This causes users to experience regular cycles of severe nausea, vomiting and dehydration, often requiring emergency medical attention.
- Problems with child development during and post pregnancy. If a woman uses marijuana during her pregnancy, the drug may affect the developing fetus's brain. Children exposed to marijuana in the womb may have an increased risk of attention, memory and problem-solving compared to unexposed children.
- Pre-term births with lower weight can occur with marijuana use during pregnancy. Some research suggests that moderate amounts of THC are excreted in breast milk of nursing mothers. This level of TCH in breast milk could affect the baby's brain development. More research is needed associated with marijuana smoking and pregnancy.



It is important for pregnant women to take care of themselves during pregnancy. Drinking alcohol, marijuana use, smoking tobacco or eating unhealthy foods can have potential negative effects on both the mother and the baby.

Key fact: The amount of THC in marijuana has been increasing steadily in recent decades, creating more harmful effects on some people.

Mental Health

Frequent use of marijuana particularly in high amounts can cause disorientation and sometimes unpleasant thoughts or feelings of anxiety and paranoia. People who use marijuana are more likely to develop temporary psychosis and long-term mental disorders such as schizophrenia, i.e., a type of mental illness where people might see or hear things that are not really there. The association between marijuana and schizophrenia is stronger in people who start using marijuana at an earlier age and use marijuana frequently.

Marijuana use has also been linked to depression, social anxiety; thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts and suicide.

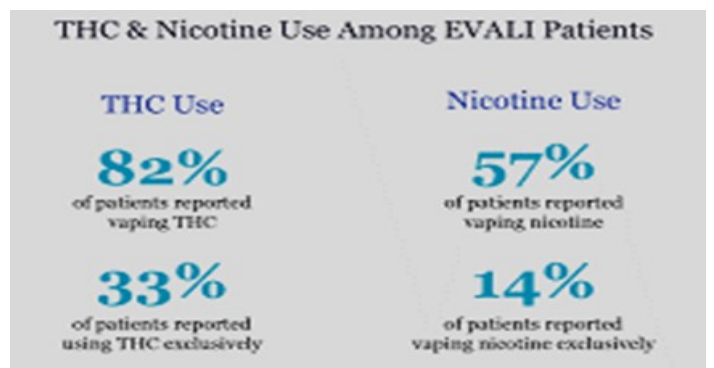
Research suggests vaping is harmful to the heart and to the lungs. Nicotine is the primary agent in regular cigarettes and e-cigarettes, and is highly addictive. It causes the person to crave a smoke and suffer withdrawal symptoms, if the craving is ignored. Nicotine is a toxic substance. It raises the blood pressure, spikes adrenaline, which increases the heart rate and the risk of having a heart attack.



Researchers from John Hopkins University published a study in October of 2021, that reveals thousands of chemical ingredients in vape products, most of which are not identified yet. Regular tobacco cigarettes contain about 7,000 chemicals, many of which are toxic.

There has been an outbreak of lung injuries and deaths associated with vaping. In February of 2020, the CDC confirmed 2,807 cases of e-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung injury (EVALI) and 68 deaths attributed to that condition. EVALI stands for e-cigarette or vaping use associated with lung injury.

The CDC has identified vitamin E acetate as a chemical of concern among people with EVALI. Vitamin E acetate is a thickening agent often used in THC vaping products, and it was found in all lung fluid samples of EVALI patients examined by the CDC.



The CDC recommends that people refrain from the use of THC containing e-cigarettes or vaping products and to avoid using informal sources, such as friends, family or online dealers to obtain a vaping device. It is also important not to modify or add any substances to a vaping device that are not intended by the manufacturer.

Marijuana & Driving

Driving under the influence (DUI) laws are not just for alcohol. Driving under the influence of drugs, including marijuana, is dangerous. Driving requires the driver's full attention to stay safe and alert. Marijuana affects areas of the brain that control the body's movements, balance, coordination, memory and judgment. Marijuana use can impair important skills required for safe driving by slowing reaction time and the ability to make decisions, impaired coordination and the distorting of one's perception.

Studies have shown a connection between severe marijuana use and car accidents. The tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the chemical compound responsible for marijuana's psychoactive properties (the "high") can lead to impairment in driving performance. Multiple substances such as alcohol and marijuana used at the same time can increase impairment. We all know the importance of not getting behind the wheel after having consumed alcohol and/or any substances that can impair judgment.

Poisoning

Edibles, or food and drink products infused with marijuana have different risks than smoking marijuana, including a greater risk of poisoning. Unlike actually smoking marijuana, edibles can take from 30 minutes to 2 hours to have an effect on the brain; thus, some individuals may consume excessive amounts, which can in turn lead to poisoning and/or serious injury. This can also cause intoxicating effects that last longer than expected, depending upon the amount ingested, the last food eaten and/or medications or alcohol used at the same time.

Children, adults and pets can mistake marijuana products such as edibles for food or candy. Consuming marijuana can make children very ill. Children may have problems walking or sitting up or may have difficulty breathing. Since the legalization of marijuana in most states, accidental marijuana poisonings in children has increased; often requiring visits to the ER and hospitalization. Marijuana products should be kept in childproof containers and keep out of the reach for children and pets. (Regional poison control center: 1-800-222-1222, cf. CDC.gov.; National Institute of Health). **KP**



The parish nurse is planning to offer a **CPR Training Class** in April. We need a minimum of 15 participants. Interested parishioners should email or phone Kim directly.

Parish nurse can be contacted via email kimp51@comcast.net or mobile 980-0931. Health counseling available by appointment.

Ladies Guild

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies' Guild

Inviting all ladies of St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish to come with ideas and suggestions for the upcoming year.

The next Ladies' Guild meeting will be on Monday, March 26 at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Pompeii church hall.

SAVE THE DATE



LTV Paint Nights & Events will be doing a 'Paint Night' for the Ladies' Guild on Wednesday, April 12 from 6:00-8:00pm. Seating is limited. More details to follow.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies' Guild Communion Luncheon

Aniello's Restaurant
Sunday, May 21 after the 11:15 Mass

\$25.00 - tip included

ONLY 50 TICKETS AVAILABLE

Choice of Entrée:

- ◆ Chicken Cutlet
- ◆ Stuffed Sole
- ◆ or, Eggplant Parmesan

All entrees include; salad, pasta, coffee & dessert

For tickets, please call:

Betty Bosse - 203-208-1903
Cindy DeLieto - 203-415-3259
Ann Mancini - 203-469-1948

STATIONS OF THE CROSS THROUGH THE EYES OF MARY



The Stations of the Cross will be presented *Through the Eyes of Mary*, the Mother of Jesus on Good Friday evening, April 7 @ 7:00pm at SVDP. Plan on attending this most moving portrayal of the Blessed Mother as she reflects on the passion and death of her Son.

N.B. Stations will not be held at Our Lady of Pompeii at 1:00 on Good Friday afternoon.

Come closer to a loving God...

Our Catholic Faith
in Scripture, Song and Prayer

Celebrating
the year
of FAITH

Donna Cori Gibson
in concert

Presented by Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Parish
Our Lady of Pompeii Church
355 Foxon Rd. East Haven

Join us in Song and Prayer to Celebrate
The Feast of Divine Mercy
Coffee/And to Follow

Previews & free downloads at www.DonnaCoriGibson.com

April 16, 2023
Divine Mercy Sunday
At the Hour of Mercy 3:00 PM

Easter Stuffed Bread Order Form

Orders will be distributed on Saturday April 8th from 10am to 12pm . Place envelope with cash/check and entire order form in collection basket or drop off at parish office.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY March 27th
Questions: Please call Rich Goulart for any questions 203-461-3444

Please make checks payable to: KOFC #3300



#	Spinach Bread-- \$8.00	\$
#	Broccoli Bread -- \$8.00	\$
#	Pepperoni & Cheese Bread -- \$9.00	\$
#	Steak & Cheese Bread -- \$10.00	\$
#	Eggplant Parm. Bread -- \$10.00	\$
#	Chicken Parm. Bread -- \$10.00	\$
#	Meatball Parm. Bread -- \$10.00	\$
#	Round sliced Loaf -- \$4.00	\$
#	Chicola Bread -- \$7.00	\$
#	Chicola Ring -- \$10.00	\$
#	1 Doz. Dinner Rolls -- \$4.00	\$
#	Easter Sweet Bread w/ Eggs -- \$10.50	\$

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

PICKUP LOCATION: OLOP _____

Knights of Columbus Council #3300
is proud to be offering

Easter Pies

Prepared By
Pettonito's Pastry and Cupcake Shoppe

Please make checks payable to KofC #3300

Questions Please Call : Rich Goulart 203-461-3444

#	Ham Pie -- \$45	\$
#	Ricotta Pie -- \$20	\$
#	Wheat Pie -- \$20	\$
#	Rice Pie -- \$20	\$
#	Italian Cream Pie -\$20	\$
#	Chocolate Lemon Pie -- \$15	\$

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

PICKUP LOCATION: OLOP _____



All orders must be in by
March 27th
Pickup will be April 8th
from 10am to 12pm



Knight of Columbus Rodrigo Council 44
St. Bernadette's Church New Haven, CT
"Getting More With 44"



St. Bernadette Church Campus

St. Vincent DePaul Church Campus

NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR YOUR

Palm Sunday and Easter Breads

All Breads Baked Fresh By



PALM SUNDAY BREAD ORDERS
MUST BE ORDERED BY 3/26/2023
PICK UP SATURDAY 4/1/2023
EASTER BREAD ORDERS
MUST BE ORDERED BY 4/2/2023
PICK UP SATURDAY 4/8/2023

ALL COUNCIL #44 ORDERS MUST BE PICKED AT
ST. BERNADETTE CHURCH CAMPUS CHURCH HALL
BETWEEN 9:00am—11:00am

All Proceeds Benefit Our Council's Charitable Donations to
Our Parish Community

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUAL SUPPORT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT MIKE FIMIANI
@ 203-627-9216 VIA TEXT OR BY PHONE CALL

**FOR ORDER FORMS, PLEASE CONTACT
MIKE FIMIANI OR CALL THE OFFICE!**



Knight of Columbus Rodrigo Council 44
St. Bernadette's Church New Haven, CT
"Getting More With 44"



St. Bernadette Church Campus

St. Vincent DePaul Church Campus

NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR YOUR

Palm Sunday and Easter Pastry

All Desserts Baked Fresh By



PALM SUNDAY PASTRY ORDERS
MUST BE ORDERED BY 3/26/2023
PICK UP SATURDAY 4/1/2023
EASTER PASTRY ORDERS
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VIA TEXT @ 203-627-9216 OR BY EMAIL @ fimtrav@yahoo.com

FR. MURASSO'S MESSAGE BOARD

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

DAILY MASS

The daily Mass schedule unchanged.



Confessions Monday: 6pm to 7pm at St. Vincent de Paul Church



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5pm to 7pm during the Sacrament of Penance.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

OLOP: Friday afternoons @ 1:00

SB: Friday evenings @ 5:30

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS



SVDP: March 31 @ 7:00pm Living Stations presented by the Confirmation Class.

THROUGH THE EYES OF MARY



SVDP: April 7, Good Friday @ 7:00pm, Stations of the Cross through the eyes of Mary.



Friday Lenten Simple Suppers

Soup, etc. To Go... immediately after the conclusion of the Stations of the Cross at St. Bernadette Church. Those attending the 5:30pm Stations are invited to stop by the **St. Bernadette convent** to pick up **SOUP**, etc....**TO GO...**

The Simple Supper Meal will be prepared, **WEEKLY** by members of the **Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council #44**.

SIMPLE SOUP SUGGESTION SIMPLE SOUPS FOR SIMPLE SUPPERS



Seven Can Chili

Ingredients

- 1 can of Hormel Chili Vegetarian
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can pinto beans
- 1 can black beans
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 can rotel tomatoes and green chiles
- 1 can Mexican corn

Preparation

Open all 7 cans, do not drain, pour into pot bring to a boil.

Serve with shredded cheddar as a garnish. The combination of ingredients gives you all the seasoning you need. Enjoy!

HOLY WEEK



Next weekend, April 2, is Palm Sunday. This is the beginning of the **holiest week of the year**. It is the most sacred time of the year as men and women of faith experience the sufferings of Jesus and walk with him from the Last Supper through his agony and death at Calvary to his glorious Resurrection.



Holy Week

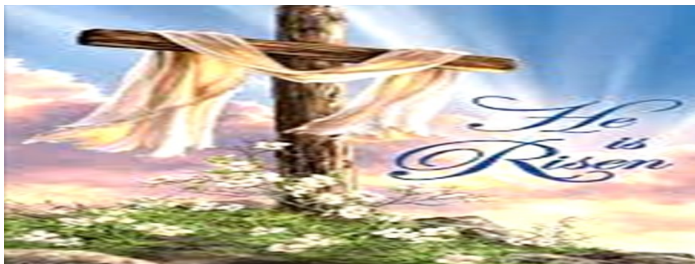
The Holy Week Triduum
APRIL 6, HOLY THURSDAY
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
OLOP 7:00pm: Fr. Murasso
SVDP 7:00pm: Fr. Patrick

APRIL 7, GOOD FRIDAY
PASSION OF THE LORD
OLOP 3:00pm: Fr. Murasso
SVDP: 3:00pm: Fr. Patrick

April 7, Holy Saturday
 Easter Bread Blessings: SVDP--9:30am



Confessions: SVDP--10:00am-11:00am



APRIL 8, EASTER VIGIL
SVDP 8:00pm: Fr. Murasso

APRIL 9, EASTER SUNDAY
OLOP 8:00am: Fr. Borino
SB 8:00am: Fr. Murasso
SVDP 9:00am: Fr. Patrick
SB 10:00am: Fr. Kelly
OLOP 10:00am: Fr. Murasso
SVDP 11:15am: Fr. Patrick

2023 SEASON SPECIAL EVENT

Friday, April 21
Saturday, April 22

Chaz Esposito sings
Mack is Back!
 The Music of BOBBY DARIN
 AND MORE!

LegacyTheatreCT.org or
 Call (203) 315-1901 Today!

Back by
 Popular Demand!



THE LEGACY THEATRE



Tickets: 203-315-1901 or
 LegacyTheatreCT.org
 128 Thimble Island Road
 Branford, CT 06405

From teen idol to Copacabana hipster, **Bobby Darin** topped the charts, melted hearts and broke all the rules of pop music. **Chaz Esposito** performs the music repertoire of beloved Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, singer/songwriter Bobby Darin along with songs and stories from many of Darin's contemporaries in his hit tribute **Mack is Back...the music of Bobby Darin & MORE**.

MACK IS BACK... the music of Bobby Darin & More at The Legacy Theatre on April 21 (8:00pm) & April 22 (2:00pm & 8:00pm).

Sponsored by:



BIBLE CAMP 2023
AUGUST 7th - 11th
9:00am to 12:30pm
Our Lady of Pompeii
Church & Grounds



Join our Cosmic Adventure into
 Space as we seek out the light
 of the world and have a blast shining Jesus' light in our world!
 God is Good all the time...
 Teen and Adult Volunteers Welcomed

Contact: Sally Mucka
 saintpio.rcia@gmail.com 203-415-2710

THE BEST OF ITALY

12 DAYS: OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 10, 2023

VISITING: PADUA * VENICE * FLORENCE
ASSISI * ORVIETO * ROME



HOSTED BY

REVEREND JEREMIAH N. MURASSO, PH.D.

\$3479 FROM NEW YORK*

*Air/land tour price is \$2959 plus \$520 gov't
taxes/airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact:

Rev. Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D.

Tel: (860) 977-7675

Email: jeremiah.murasso@aol.com



DON'T MISS OUT! SIGN UP TODAY!



All men of the parish are invited to join us each Saturday morning at St. Vincent de Paul for the Men's Group, 7:30-9:00am.



Have you recently lost a friend or family member?
Are you having difficulty concentrating and enjoying everyday activities?

Rajnet352@comcast.net or Phone: 713-898-2563
Barbara Natarajan

SHOPPING CARDS *STILL* NEEDED



Although the holidays have passed, the food prices continue to rise, several of our parishioners are having trouble buying food as they *struggle* to purchase other household necessities.

Grocery Shopping cards in any denomination to any of the local supermarkets would help me help members of our parish family, who are need of assistance for the purchase of food. These gift/shopping cards can be dropped into the collection basket or brought to the parish office. Whatever you can do, is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.
JNM

MASS SCHEDULE



March 25 & 26, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso

4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick

8:00am OLOP: Fr. Borino

9:00am SB: Fr. Murasso

10:00am OLOP: Fr. Kelly

11:15am SVDP: Fr. Patrick

April 1 & 2, 2023—PALM SUNDAY

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Patrick

4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Murasso

8:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso

9:00am SB: Fr. Patrick

10:00am OLOP: Fr. Kelly

11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso

APRIL 6, HOLY THURSDAY

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OLOP 8:00am: Fr. Borino

SB 8:00am: Fr. Murasso

SVDP 9:00am: Fr. Patrick

SB 10:00am: Fr. Kelly

OLOP 10:00am: Fr. Murasso

SVDP 11:15am: Fr. Patrick

April 15 & 16, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso

4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick

8:00am OLOP: Fr. Borino

9:00am SB: Fr. Patrick

10:00am OLOP: Fr. Kelly

11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso