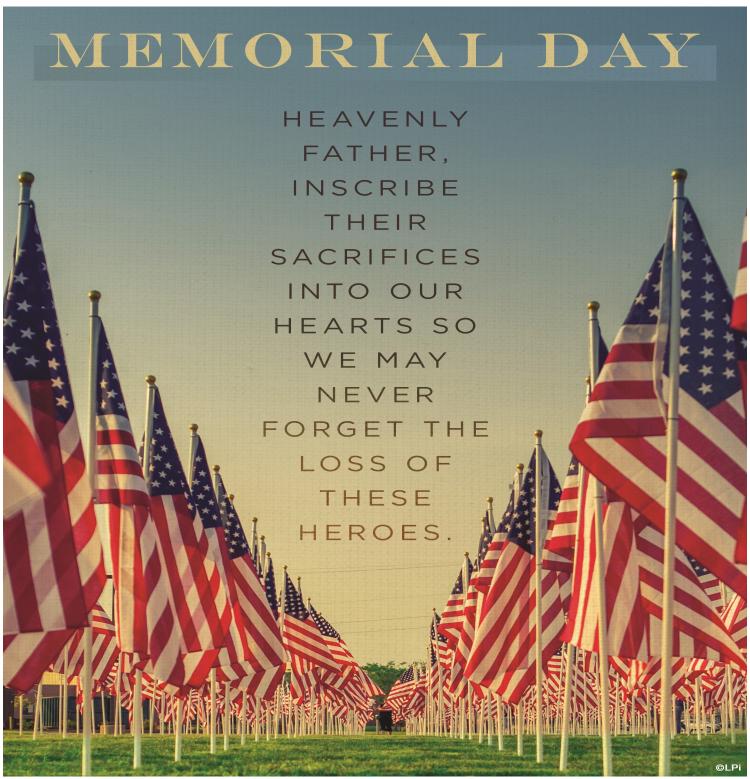
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF

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



Pentecost Sunday May 28, 2023 Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, May 27 - Vigil - Pentecost Sunday

4:00pm OLOP + Albert Vitale

by Family

4:30pm SVDP + Thomas Culligan

by Wife, Elizabeth

SUNDAY, May 28 - Pentecost Sunday

8:00am OLOP + Linda Carlson & Kenny & Butch Console

by Kathy Mauro

9:00am SB + Annette Talbot

by Family

10:00am OLOP + Robert Scussel, Jr.

by Scussel Family

11:15am SVDP + Marie Angela Sommo

by Husband, Charles

MONDAY, May 29 - Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial Day Observance)

8:00am OLOP + John Iaffaldano

by Michelle Fraenza & Jane Nerreau

NO HOLY HOUR TODAY

8:00am SVDP + Laura Anderson

TUESDAY, May 30 – World Day of Prayer for Vocations

8:00am OLOP + Emilio & Reba Cifarelli

by Family

8:00am SVDP + Chavez Family

by Oscar

WEDNESDAY, May 31 - Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am OLOP + Gary Spadory

by Lisa Leary

8:00am SVDP + Elizabeth Hotchkiss

by Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home

THURSDAY, June 1 - St. Justin

8:00am OLOP + Cora & Harold Hall, Sr.

by Marianne Hall

8:00am SB + Florence Borino

by Family

FRIDAY, June 2 - Sts. Marcellinus & Peter - First Friday

8:00am SB + Frank & Connie Pietrosimone

by Jeffrey

SATURDAY, June 3 - St. Charles Lwanga—First Saturday

8:00am SB + Fr. Brian Shaw

SATURDAY, June 3 - Vigil - Most Holy Trinity

4:00pm OLOP + Maureen DeRose

by Family

4:30pm SVDP + Richard Talbot

by Family

SUNDAY, June 4 – Most Holy Trinity

8:00am OLOP + Anthony Fabrizio

by Family

9:00am SB + Robert Imperato (7th Anniversary)

by Mom, Shirley Skeens

10:00am OLOP + Marian & Charles Gayer

by Diane

11:15am SVDP + Mary Varunes & Richie Silvestri

by Jack & Sue Stacey



2024 MASSES -SAVE THE DATE!

The 2024 Mass Intention Book will open on Thursday, June 1, 2023. Kindly have your requests ready when scheduling. We will continue to have a limit of 3 weekend Masses per individual booking.

Payment due at time of booking.

STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection \$7,841.00

Catholic Communication Collection \$2,375.00

Ascension of the Lord \$1,889.00

Online Giving \$553.00

June 3 & 4 Second Collection:

Monthly

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez

37:1-14

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-

2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/

Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3,

4bcd, 5-6/Lk 1:39-56

Thursday: Sir 42:15-25/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk

10:46-52

Friday: Sir 44:1, 9-13/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mk

11:11-26

Saturday: Sir 51:12cd-20/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mk

11:27-33

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

SUNDAY, MAY 28 SUNDAY, JUNE 4 **No Events or Activities** Eucharist Exhibition - 8:00am-2:00pm at OLOP Hall MONDAY, MAY 29 MONDAY, JUNE 5 Office Closed - Memorial Day Observance Holy Hour - 8:30-9:30am in Our Lady of Pompeii Church NO HOLY HOUR TODAY Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 Bible Study - 7:00pm on Zoom Contact Christine Sandford at 203-469-7823 **TUESDAY, JUNE 6** TUESDAY, MAY 30 Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8 Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8 WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Bible Study - 6:30pm at SVDP Parish Office Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Contact Marie Connors at 203-468-1184 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - 7:00pm at OLOP Church Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - 7:00pm at OLOP Church Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8 Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8 THURSDAY, JUNE 1 **THURSDAY, JUNE 8** Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Scriptural Rosary - 7:00pm at OLOP Chapel Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8 Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8 FRIDAY, JUNE 2 FRIDAY, JUNE 9 Prayer Shawl - 1:00pm at OLOP LOMR Prayer Shawl - 1:00pm at OLOP LOMR Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Rosary Group - 8:00 pm on Zoom Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8 Contact Sally Mucka at 203-469-0764 ext. 8 SATURDAY, JUNE 3 SATURDAY, JUNE 10 Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center Men's Group - 7:30am-9:00am at SVDP Parish Center

Memorial Day Remembrance

Eucharist Exhibition - 3:00pm-6:00pm at OLOP Hall



On this Memorial Day weekend, we raise our hearts, our voices and our hands in prayer in deepest gratitude to those men and women who paid the ultimate price; for all those who have fought and continue to fight so that we may enjoy the fruits of living in freedom. May God continue to bless them and their families. And may God Bless America!

Ladies Guild

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Ladies' Guild Installation Banquet

Monday, June 12 at 6:00pm

St. Vincent de Paul 80 Taylor Avenue East Haven, CT 06512

\$30 per ticket

TICKETS ARE NOW BEING SOLD!

For tickets, please call: Gloria Podsiadlo at 203-980-2949 Dawn Vittorio at 203-535-4091 Patricia Scussel at 203-468-8108 Debbie Criscuolo at 203-208-0111

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 ~

Sacred Heart of Jesus ~
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Icon ~ Fr. John Lavorgna
by Judy & Carol
Pascal Candle ~ Fr. John Lavorgna

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 ~ Pascal Candle ~ Barbara & Maurice Connolly

St. Bernadette Candles

Sanctuary Lamp (Right Side) ~ Pascal Candle ~ Harold Donegan

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, Christina Meoli, Michelle Smith, Ron Mattei, Angela Riccio, Charlene Tantalo, Al Forgione, Gabriella Garrity, Beverly Fucci, W.D. Merkle, Phyllis Anastasio, Cheryl Barbara, 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, 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, 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, Mike Liso, John Mongillo, Sr., Bill Morrison

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

Midnight Run Taylor Avenue Campus

The Midnight Run for **June** is the **2nd Monday**, which is **June 12th.** 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, June 12th**. 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) 1year. Questions, please contact Deb or Rico at 203-468-7489



THE EAST HAVEN FOOD PANTRY is asking for pasta, sauce and meals sides (i.e. Knorrs, Rice a Roni, etc.) the months of April and May. 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.

The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to deliver to one homebound senior in their neighborhood twice a month, if you are able to please call Christine at the below number.

For more info call Christine Sandford 203-469-7823

From the Pastor's Pen Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, PhD, EdD, PsyD

Pentecost Sunday St. John 20:19-23



The feast of Pentecost marks the end of the Easter Season. Fifty days have passed since the celebration of Christ's Resurrection and his victory over death. Prior to Vatican Council II, the Easter Season ended on Ascension Thursday with the celebration of Jesus' departure from the world and his return to the Father. With the liturgical changes of Vatican II, ten additional days were added to include the feast of Pentecost.

Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church with the decent of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised his disciples that he would never leave them orphaned. The Spirit that Jesus will send into the world will be the source of protection and nourishment for the Church and for future disciples.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments, and I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always; the Spirit of truth who the world cannot accept" (John 14:15).

"You will recognize him [the Advocate], because he will remain with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14: 17b-18).

"On that day [the day when the Advocate comes] you will realize that I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything" (John 14:26).

The decent of the Holy Spirit is a very significant event in the lives of the disciples as well as in the life of the Church. The disciples never really grasped who Jesus was even though Jesus made many references to his relationship to the Father and his desire that the disciples would model such a relationship. It was not until the *Spirit* of Jesus entered into their lives at Pentecost that *their eyes were opened* and they were able to see things clearly and believe.



Even as the apostles said their good-bys to Jesus on what the Church refers to as Jesus' *Ascension* into heaven, they did not fully understand the impact of what this would mean for their lives.

"The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:16-20).

"Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them, he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God" (Luke 24:53).

The disciples may have "paid Jesus homage," as St. Luke says, however, this "great joy" that he describes could not have lasted too long. Matthew (28:16) indicates that although they "worshipped" they also "doubted." This doubt evidently led to despair and fear because John indicates that the disciples were gathered together, having locked themselves away from the world; thus, they were fearful.

"On the evening of the first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you'... the disciples rejoiced when they saw that it was the Lord" (John 20:19-20).

Once Jesus had taken his leave and vanished from their sight as the scriptures tell us, the disciples returned to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, they *apparently* did not engage in "*rejoicing*" because they like other converts to Christianity feared for their lives, due to the fact that anyone who professed a belief in Jesus was imprisoned and some were eventually killed.

This was the reason that the disciples locked themselves in the room. Perhaps, the same location where they ate their last meal with their companion and friend Jesus. Fearful as they were and given the present climate of the day, a return to the same location where they once experienced happy times must have been a source of consolation and security for the disciples.

As they huddled together in the locked room, perhaps, they reminisced about the things that Jesus said and the miracles that he performed. Perhaps, they remembered how awkward and embarrassed they felt as Jesus knelt before each of them to wash their feet. Perhaps, they even chided Peter about initially trying to prevent Jesus from washing his feet and then laughing about Peter's request for the Lord to wash his entire body.



The disciples never expected to see Jesus again. Perhaps, they thought that he would return on the *Day of Judgment*, yet, they truly did not understand what he meant by not leaving them orphans. Nor did they understand what he meant by the sending of "the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth" into their lives.

John's gospel account for this Sunday's feast of Pentecost is the same account that was read on the second Sunday of Easter when the Church celebrated *Divine Mercy Sunday*. The feast of Pentecost provides 21st century men and women of faith with yet, another glimpse of the gentle Jesus and the healing, compassionate presence of Jesus' *Spirit* that was witnessed by the disciples; the same Spirit that men and women of faith experience in their lives today.

There are three powerful moments in the Gospel reading for this feast of Pentecost (John 20:19-23):

1. Jesus' salutation of peace as he re-enters into the lives of his disciples.

2. Jesus commissions his disciples as heralds of the *Good News* and sends them into the world as witnesses to his ministry and to his mission.

3.Jesus confers the Holy Spirit by *breathing* new life into his disciples.

Jesus' Salutation of Peace

The disciples had locked themselves in a small room and were hiding from the Jewish and Roman authorities who they feared would imprison and possibly kill them (John 20:19-31). This was Jesus' fifth meeting with his disciples since his resurrection but it was the first meeting with them as a group since they abandoned him in the Garden of Gethsemane, the night prior to his crucifixion.

Jesus could have scolded the disciples for their lack of loyalty in leaving him for prey at the hands of the Roman soldiers. He could have expressed to Peter an, "I told you so" rebuke, stating his disappointment at Peter's predicted betrayal at a moment when Jesus could have really used a friend. Jesus could have criticized the disciples for not remembering all that he had told them about the "Third Day."

Jesus could have asked them why they continued in their skepticism and disbelief about his rising from the dead *even* after the disciples visited the empty tomb. Perhaps, Jesus could have continued by asking the disciples why they thought that the women who eagerly brought them the news of the *Risen Christ*, having seen and having spoken with him in his glorified form were not worthy of belief.

Jesus could have said many things to the disciples, pointing out their lack of loyalty as well as their refusal to believe. Yet, he did not. Instead, Jesus says to them, "Peace be with you" (John 19:19; 19:21; 19:26). Coming from the Greek, the word for peace is Eirene. The word describes more than the desire for peace or goodwill toward another. It is descriptive of the fullness of goodness, perfection and completeness, devoid of adversity.



The Hebrew equivalent of *Eirene* is *Shalom*. It is a wish for the other person to experience unconditional blessings and prosperity for a full and complete life. To greet another with the salutation, "*Shalom Aleichem*" means the following:

"I wish you completeness and wholeness, health, prosperity, harmony of mind, body and spirit, devoid from all conflict, adversity and fear. I wish you every good thing that any one individual can possibly experience in the world in a spirit of love and deep-rooted peace, which begins and ends at your spiritual center; at the level of soul."

Wholeness and completeness at the level of man's spiritual core was the kind of "peace" that Jesus was bestowing on his disciples. It was this bestowal of such incredible blessings that served not only to waylay their fears but to accomplish so much more.

I picture the disciples as being initially startled and incredulous with fear as Jesus suddenly appeared in the small room, despite the locked doors. Moments later, however, all their preoccupations, appearing redundant and unsubstantiated would vanish as did their uncertainties, their anger and even their guilt for having abandoned Jesus in his hour of need. John indicates that:

"After he had said this ['Peace be with you'], he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (John 20: 20).



Suddenly, the non-threatening, all loving, merciful and compassionate Jesus raised their human spirits enabling them to *re-discover* joy; a joy that they once knew and experienced with their friend and mentor. What a powerful message for those who despair; for those who doubt; for those who lack hope in tomorrow! Only when men and women of faith learn to bring personal turmoil, crises and tribulations to Jesus will they find peace and a joy, which the world can neither bestow nor can destroy.

Commissioning of the Disciples

After Jesus offers the disciples "peace," John says that Jesus then sends them forth into the world in the same way that the Father had sent Jesus: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you" (20:21).

Jesus' commissioning of the eleven disciples (Judas had not been replaced) to leave the locked room and to go into the world as witnesses of his ministry and of his triumph over sin and death was not intended merely for the disciples nor is it meant for just bishops and priests. By nature of our Baptism and Confirmation, each one of us is *called forth* and entrusted to bring the message of Jesus Christ into the market place as witnesses to the Truth.

Jesus *sends* his disciples into a troubled and confused world in the same way that he sends 21st century men and women of faith into a troubled and confused world. Each is called to cultivate and to nurture his/her faith without compromise *in* and *to* a world that is waiting to be healed. Faith in God's *Word*, Jesus Christ, the *Logos of God* must *drive* one's choices on a daily basis, cultivating positive and wholesome behaviors that lead to the living-out of the Gospel.

In John 17:9, referred to as the *Priestly Prayer of Jesus*, the gospel account for last weekend, Jesus prays for his disciples. It is through the ministry of his disciples that the message of *God's Word*, the *Logos* would and continues to be made known.



In other words, by nature of Baptism and Confirmation, men and women of faith are *responsible* for keeping the *flame of faith* alive and burning brightly in their lives for all to see. "Jesus replied, '*If anyone loves me, he will keep my word*'" (John 14:23). "*If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love*" (John 15:9).

The conferral of the Holy Spirit

Immediately after Jesus commissions the disciples as witnesses and heralds of the *Good News*, John indicates that Jesus imparts upon them the Holy Spirit by breathing on them.

"And having said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive their sins, they have been forgiven them; if you retain them, they are retained'" (20:22).

God sends forth his Spirit by breathing into man after he creates him from dust. The Greek verb *emphysao*, means to breathe in. God "*breaths in*" His spirit, permitting His Spirit to be infused into the souls of the first man and woman:

"God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed (emphysao) into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being."

The new life about which John speaks of in this passage (20:22) is not the predicted decent of the Holy Spirit who is *yet* to come. It is Jesus' *breath of life* that will become the *creating force*, the *energy* that will be responsible for the new messianic community. In other words, the Church of the *New Covenant* is conceived among the disciples who are the first witnesses of the *Good News*.

The official descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which marks the birth of the Church would only take place following Jesus' glorification as it is described in Luke's *Acts of the Apostles*.

"When Pentecost Day came around, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:1-4).



Everything changed on the day of Pentecost just as Jesus had predicted. Once the *Spirit of Truth, the Advocate* entered into the lives of the disciples, their fears vanished. Not only did all their worries and preoccupations disappear, they began to understand everything Jesus had told them and all that he had predicted. For the first time, they understood what Jesus meant when he said:

"You will recognize him [the Advocate] because he will remain with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18).

Pentecost for Today

What significance does Pentecost have for men and women of faith who live in the twenty-first century? How has the sending of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the disciples changed the way we live (or should live)? Pentecost is a reminder, a visual aide that the Spirit of Jesus lives as an *enduring*, *vibrant*, presence in our souls.

We have already received the Spirit of Jesus in Baptism and Confirmation; thus because of this, we have access \underline{to} and participate \underline{in} the same unity that exists between the Father and the Son.

Pentecost is a reminder that Jesus is always with us. The Pentecost Event: the descent of the Holy Spirit gives testimony to the fact that we are not alone in our journey through the desert of life's trials and tribulations. **JNM**

Additional Note: Although sensitive of gender-related language; he/she, him/her, it is often necessary to refer to the generic, "man" when reference is made to the essence of human nature.



Vatican
International
Exhibition
Eucharistic
Miracles of the
World
Coming to St. Pio
of Pietrelcina
Parish
At Our Lady of
Pompeii Church
Hall
355 Foxon Road
East Haven

June 3& 4

Have you ever heard of or seen a miracle of the Eucharist? The Vatican International Exhibition: "Eucharistic Miracles of the World" is coming to St. Pio of Pietrelcina It includes posters depicting 128 Eucharistic miracles from various countries around the world and another dozen posters of holy men and women whose lives were significantly impacted by the Eucharist. The Exhibition will be at Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall on Saturday, June 3 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm and Sunday June 4 from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Come and see the many ways Jesus has removed doubts and proven his true Presence this Most Blessed in Sacrament. Come and be inspired!



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

Autoimmune Disease & Health

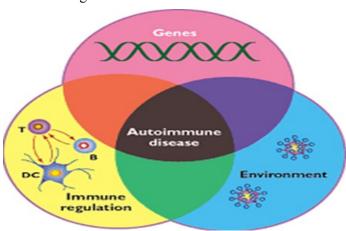
Autoimmune diseases affect approximately 23.5 million Americans and nearly 80 percent affected are women. Autoimmune disease occurs when the body's natural defense, i.e., the immune system attacks the body's own healthy tissues and cells. Scientists as well as the medical profession do not understand why the immune system attacks itself.



When the body senses danger from a virus or infection, the immune system is activated and attacks it. This is called an *immune response*. Sometimes, healthy cells and tissues are caught up in this response, resulting in autoimmune disease.

A healthy immune system defends the body against disease and infection. But if the immune system malfunctions, it mistakenly attacks healthy cells, tissues and organs. An autoimmune disease can attack any part of the body; thus, weakening bodily function. This can be life threatening.

Scientists are aware of about 80 autoimmune diseases. Some are well known, such as Type 1 Diabetes, Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, Ulcerative Colitis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Crohn's Disease. Others symptoms are rare and difficult to diagnose.



With rare or uncommon autoimmune diseases, individuals may suffer for years before getting a proper diagnosis. Most of these diseases have no cure, and some require lifelong treatment to ease symptoms (nih.gov).

Autoimmune Diseases

Some autoimmune diseases include:

I.Diseases of the joints and muscles

- •Psoriatic arthritis
- •Rheumatoid arthritis
- •Sjogren's syndrome
- •Systemic lupus erythematosus (Lupus, SLE)

II. Diseases of the digestive tract

- •Crohn's disease
- •Celiac disease
- •Ulcerative colitis
- •Diseases of the endocrine system:
- •Graves' disease
- •Hashimoto's disease

III. Diseases of the skin

- Psoriasis
- •Dermatomyositis

IV. Diseases of the nervous system

- •Guillain-Barre syndrome
- •Multiple sclerosis (MS)

V. Other diseases

- •Myasthenia gravis
- Autoimmune vasculitis
- •Type 1 diabetes
- •Pernicious anemia
- Vasculitis

Risk factors

Risk factors for developing an autoimmune disease can include:

- •Smoking.
- •Exposure to toxins.
- •Some medications. It is important to speak to your doctor about the side effects of medications for blood pressure, statins and antibiotics.
- •Family history. Having relatives with autoimmune diseases means that some of these diseases may be genetic.
- Obesity
- Infections
- •Being female. Approximately 80 percent of people who have an autoimmune disease are women.

Symptoms

Some autoimmune disease symptoms:

I. Diseases of the joints and muscles

- •Muscles aches and pains.
- •Joint pain, stiffness and swelling.
- •Muscle weakness.
- •Inflammation.

II. Diseases of the digestive tract

- Bloating
- •Nausea
- Acid reflux
- Constipation
- •Food sensitivities
- •Abdominal pain
- •Blood or mucus in the stool.

III. Diseases of the skin

- Rashes
- Dry eyes
- Inflammation
- •Dry skin
- Itching
- •Dry mouth
- Hair loss

AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

- ·multiple sclerosis
- -type 1 diabetes
- rheumatoid arthritis
- ·Parkinson's
- ·Fibromyalgia
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- ·ASD's ???
- nearly a hundred other known autoimmune diseases.

autoimmune diseases

- One in 12 people
- one in 9 women
- •24 million Americans
- double the number of people who have cancer
- woman is 8 times more
- likely to have an
- autoimmune disease than
- breast cancer
- 90 percent of Americans say they can't name a
- single autoimmune disease

IV. Diseases of the nervous system

- Dizziness
- •Migraines Headaches
- Confusion/difficulty thinking
- Memory issues
- •Lightheadedness
- •Anxiety/depression
- •Insomnia
- •Numbness and tingling

V. Other diseases

- Fatigue
- •Weight gain or loss
- •Swollen glands
- •Rapid or irregular heartbeat
- Pain
- •Shortness of breath
- •Fever
- •Temperature sensitivity

Diagnosing Autoimmune Diseases

It is often difficult for healthcare providers to diagnose autoimmune diseases because they have similar symptoms to that of other diseases. It is important for the patient to provide his/her doctor with a detailed list of any symptoms and the length of time that the symptoms have been occurring. It is equally important that a record of family medical history, particularly of an autoimmune disease be provided to the doctor.

After an assessment of symptoms is established, blood work may be ordered. Blood tests may help to diagnose such diseases as:

- •Antinuclear antibody (ANA)
- •Complete blood count (CBC)
- •Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)
- •Specific symptoms combined with specific blood markers may confirm an autoimmune disease.



Treatment

There are no cures for autoimmune diseases but symptoms can be managed. Each person's immune system, genetics and environment are different. This means that treatment must be unique to each person. Medications typically used to treat autoimmune diseases include:

- •Pain medication
- •Anti inflammatory
- •Insulin injections
- •Plasma exchanges
- •Rash creams and pills
- Corticosteroids
- •Intravenous immune globulin

Alternatives

Alternative medicines and procedure include: hypnosis, herbs, chiropractic procedures and acupuncture. It may not be possible to prevent autoimmune diseases but experts recommend the following to decrease the risk of developing the disease:

- •Exercise consistently.
- •Avoid toxins- BPA plastic, mercury, asbestos
- •Eat a healthy diet.
- •Limit processed foods from the diet.
- •Manage stress levels. Some ways to manage stress can be meditation, walks, keeping a journal or starting a new hobby. KP

Parish nurse can be contacted via email kimp51@comcast.net or mobile 203-980-0931. Health counseling available by appointment.



The parish nurse will be co-teaching a class titled, "Diabetes Self-Management." This is a 6-week class geared to individuals living with pre-diabetes, diabetes or who live with someone who has the condition.

Contact Kim directly to sign up to take the class. Class will be offered in late August.



Reverend Jeremiah N. Murasso, Ph.D., Ed.D., Psy.D.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Feast Day: June 16





On Thursday this week, we begin the month of June. June is dedicated to the *Sacred Heart of Jesus* with the actual feast day celebrated annually on the Friday that follows the feast of *Corpus Christi*. This year, the feast is celebrated on June 16.

At first glance, the feast appears crude. Non-believers ask, "Why the heart?" However, it is not merely the physical heart of Jesus that Catholics honor; it is Jesus' merciful and healing compassion as well as the entire mission, ministry and person of Jesus.



Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is directed to and focuses upon the Heart of Jesus as a symbol of love just as the human heart has become symbolic for the center of man's emotions. The word heart is used in a variety of different ways. We use the heart to express positive feelings of joy, love and happiness. The human heart is also the center of the gloomy feelings of sadness, hate, indifference as well as sentimental feelings and expressions.



How often, each of us has described another person, or heard someone being described with statements like: "She has a heart of gold," or "He has a good heart," or "I love you with all my heart," or "I give you my heartfelt thanks for what you have done for me."

We have also heard it said or have in fact made statements like: "My heart is breaking," or "Her heart is full of sadness," or "Their hearts are hardened; thus, cannot hear or see truth." Such statements are descriptive not of a <u>part</u> of man, as if particular organs or muscles possess their own autonomy and conscious identity for self-expression. Rather, these sentiments are used to describe the character or personality of an individual; his/her feelings and desires.

The human *heart* has its own holiday. Valentine's Day is the celebration *not* of the physical muscle in the body that is responsible for the pumping of blood. Rather, Valentine's Day celebrates *love*, providing for men and women an official and special holiday for expressing the powerful and positive emotions that one person has for another. Valentine's Day celebrates the individual's desire and affection for that *special other* or *others* in his/her life.



Our society celebrates St. Valentine's Day with red roses, heart-shaped candies and *Hallmark* cards, all of which are exchanged as expressions of one's admiration and deepest feelings toward a significant other. The red heart has in fact, taken on the symbol of love.

The Greek philosophers described the human heart in terms of the *whole person*. It was that part of the human person that was responsible for life; both physical and spiritual life. Biologically, the heart is that muscle in humans and animals that pumps blood throughout the body, bringing nourishment to all the cells in the body.

Sacred Heart of Jesus

God works in very mysterious ways; mysterious that is, *not* to God but to the human mind. In every age, God has singled out individuals; some who have been religious sisters and brothers, others who have been priests and still others who have been married with families such as our own Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American saint.

These individuals came from different parts of the world, with different backgrounds and ethnic roots, living at different times in history. The common thread, however, which links each of them is their personal and intimate <u>call</u> by God who entrusted each with a particular mission.

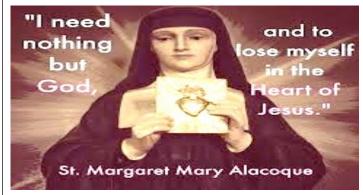


The mysterious workings of God were seen so vividly in His desire for a specific feast that would call attention to the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Real Presence. Men and women of faith like the unknown and humble Saint Juliana of Liege was privileged to be the recipient of numerous revelations from God. It was she who worked tirelessly in what would be the eventual establishment of the devotion to the Body and Blood of Christ as an annual feast in the Church's calendar.

Saints such as Francis of Assisi, whose feast is celebrated on October 4, and Anthony of Padua celebrated on June 13, both made significant contributions to the Christian faith, which has had positive and lasting consequences in the lives of people of all denominations.

Margaret Mary Alacoque

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is not without its mysterious and mystical and seemingly (to the human mind) fortuitous origin. Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a seventeenth-century Visitandine nun living in the monastery at Paray-le-Monial was yet, another privileged soul whose faith enabled God to work through her, making His mark in human history by making conscious to mankind His desire for a greater adherence to His Sacred Heart.



Unlike St. Juliana of Liege who had a devotion to the Real Presence, Saint Margaret Mary did not know of, nor did she have a previous devotion to the *Heart of Jesus*. Yet, the hand of God was at work. It was the faith of Margaret Mary that enabled God to send a powerful message to all of mankind.

Margaret Mary's Visions

From 1673-1675, Saint Margaret Mary was favored by God in being the recipient of numerous appearances by Christ. During these appearances, Jesus spoke of his sadness with regard to *man's hardened heart* and his inability to love Jesus and his Mother. On one particular occasion, on the feast of St. John, Jesus permitted Margaret Mary the privilege of resting her head on Jesus' chest in order to hear the beat of his heart.



It was on June 16, 1675, during the feast of *Corpus Christi* that what has been referred to as the "*Great Apparition*" occurred. At this time, Jesus appeared to Margaret Mary and requested that he be honored under the image of his "*Heart of Flesh*." Jesus said, "*Behold the heart that has so loved men, instead of gratitude, I receive from the greater part of mankind only ingratitude.*"

Jesus went on to tell Margaret Mary that he had chosen her for the task of making this devotion to his *Sacred Heart*, a "Feast Day of Reparation." This special Feast Day, said Jesus to Margaret Mary should also be accompanied by:

- •Communion by the faithful.
- •Communion on the first Friday of each month.
- •Observance of a holy hour.

The Church moves slowly but <u>God always gets His way!</u> His will is always actualized. By the mid-part of the eighteenth century, both religious communities and dioceses had begun to make a consecration to the <u>Sacred Heart of Jesus</u>. Yet, the Church of France and Rome had dragged their feet for years in making Christ's request a reality.



Ironically, it was at the request of the Queen of France, Marie Leszczyńska and not a bishop or the pope who in 1729, having petitioned Rome received Rome's consent. The *Sacred Heart of Jesus* was instituted as an official feast day and consecration to his *Sacred Heart* was accepted by the French bishops. In 1856, Pope Pius IX extended the feast to include the universal Church. On June 11, 1899, it was Pope Leo XIII who consecrated all of mankind to the *Sacred Heart of Jesus*. Margaret Mary Alacoque died in 1690, and was canonized in 1920, by Pope Benedict XV.

In June, 1990, in his recognition of the 300th anniversary of Saint Margaret Mary's death, reflecting on the life of Saint Margaret Mary and her undying devotion to the *Heart of Jesus*, Pope John Paul II spoke these words:

"...for it is in the heart of Christ that the human heart learns to know the true and unique meaning of its life and of its destiny; it is in the Heart of Christ that the human heart receives its capacity to love."

What do we celebrate when we honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

We honor and recall the person of Jesus. It is Jesus Christ, the *Second Person of the Blessed Trinity*: his *Life*, his *Death* and his *Resurrection* that we honor and recall each time that we pray to the *Sacred Heart of Jesus*. In addition to the person of Jesus, we also recall Jesus' unconditional love and compassion:

- •It is the *Sacred Heart of Jesus* that *felt pain* when he learned of the death of his best friend and cousin, John the Baptist.
- •It is the Sacred Heart of Jesus that wept over Jerusalem.
- •It is the same *Sacred Heart of Jesus* that *felt remorse* and empathy for the sick, the blind, the poor and the homeless.
- •It is the same Sacred Heart of Jesus that conveyed to St Margaret Mary Alacoque his sorrow and disappointment for man's lack of love for him and his mother.

When we honor the *Sacred Heart of Jesus*, we recall not a lifeless, inanimate heart that is separate from the person of Christ. Rather, when Christians celebrate the *Sacred Heart of Jesus*, they recall the *Living Heart* of the Incarnate God. Christians *honor* and *remember* that the *Heart* of Jesus is the *center* and *source* of all his affections.

The Heart of Jesus symbolizes and actually testifies to the affections and the unconditional love (*agape*) that pours forth from Jesus' heart like golden rays of light.

There is a beautiful painting of Jesus, whose author in anonymous, portraying Jesus with his exposed heart.

As one gazes at the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, one's eyes are immediately drawn to the center, to the Heart of Christ. Upon further examination of the Heart, one becomes aware of the golden rays emanating from and converging at the heart's center.

The artist wanted to convey the message that all of creation; everything that exists and all which is...begins and ends...comes forth from...and returns to...the *Heart of Christ*. In other words, all being has its origin and destiny in Jesus Christ.

Attaching as we should, all of our hopes, our dreams, our joys, our sadness and our pain to those unquenchable and *un*-appeasing golden rays that emerge from his *Sacred Heart*, we...each of us...are individually and collectively pulled into his merciful *Heart* of unconditional love.

In such a way, we are entrusted with the propensity for becoming for one another, a *product* of the Love that has *loved us first*. It is this Love (*agape*) that we remember and it is this Love (*agape*) that we celebrate when we honor the *Sacred Heart of Jesus*.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a very powerful image for twenty-first century men and women of faith. The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a reminder that all that we are and everything we possess has its origin and its destiny in Jesus. With this comes the awesome responsibility of making Jesus present in our daily lives. JNM

Corpus Christi Procession From the Desk of Fr. Patrick

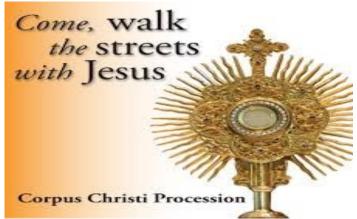
Sunday, June 11 is the Feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, commonly known by its former name, *Corpus Christi*. One of the ancient practices of the Church is a Eucharistic Procession, done on Corpus Christi. This practice dates back to the 13th century, in Cologne, Germany. By the 14th century, this practice had spread throughout Europe. Last year on *Corpus Christi*, we did a driving procession to all three of our campuses. However, the Eucharistic Procession should be one where the Eucharist, held in a monstrance is carried through the streets.

This year, we will be doing a Eucharistic Procession through the streets of East Haven and New Haven following the 11:15am Mass at St. Vincent de Paul. The procession will begin in the church, and proceed down Bradley Avenue to Francis Street, crossing Gerrish Avenue, before making our way to Burr Street where we will continue on all the way to St. Bernadette. Once we arrive at St. Bernadette, we will have adoration, a short reflection, and benediction before the Eucharist is reposed back into the tabernacle.

Following the benediction, refreshments will be available either outside the church or at the Senior Center. The distance of this walk is 1.9 miles, and will take approximately 45 minutes.

Those wishing to walk should be physically able to make the journey, and should also make arrangements for transportation after walking from St. Vincent de Paul to St. Bernadette. This event is subject to change based on the weather. Those not wishing to walk can also join us at St. Bernadette Church for adoration and benediction at approximately 1pm.

WE INVITE AND URGE OUR PARISH FAMILY TO PARTICIPTE IN THIS AGE-OLD TRADITION FOR PRAISING THE LORD!



In the event of rain, we will simply have adoration and benediction at St. Vincent de Paul church following the 11:15am Mass. Anyone who has questions can contact Fr. Patrick via email: kanepmk@gmail.com or by calling the office: 203-469-0764 ext. 232



Update from the Desk of Fr. Patrick:

As I'm sure most of you know, I have been teaching a class each of the past two Fall seasons on various topics. I have enjoyed teaching immensely, and it's been wonderful to have been able to meet and get to know parishioners more personally than just at Mass. As most of you probably don't know though, I will be becoming a student again myself, as I will be starting graduate school this week as I pursue a degree in business from Villanova University. This mean however, after discernment, that I will NOT be teaching a class this Fall. I'm sure many of you were hoping to hear that I would be, but at this time, I need to focus on my studies, in addition to the work that I have to do here at the parish. This degree is almost entirely online, so I won't have to go away from school and leave the parish. I can continue my ministry here while I pursue my studies. We shall see what next year brings, but for now, there will not be a class this Fall. I hope you all understand, and please keep me in your prayers as I begin school again.

Fr. Patrick

Knights of Columbus Rodrigo Council #44

PRAY THE ROSARY

KofC Rodrigo Council #44 Rosary, every 1st Tuesday of the month at St. Bernadette Church as we pray for an increase in priestly vocations as well as all religious vocations and the Holy Spirit to inspire our priest and religious.

- ⇒ Peace in the World
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the Vaccine and the Medical Personnel.
- ⇒ For a *Return* to Christ and the Blessed Virgin.
- \Rightarrow For an end to the Pandemic.
- **⇒ Increase in Priestly vocations**

WHEN: Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30pm. (Rosary)

WHERE: St. Bernadette Church

Monthly Rosary is held the first Tuesday of every month.

SAINT BERNADETTE CHURCH PRAYER GARDEN



THE KNIGHT'S OF COLUMBUS RODRIGO COUNCIL #44 OF SAINT BERNADETTE CHURCH CAMPUS OF ST. PIO PIETRELCINA PARISH IS NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR ENGRAVED BRICKS TO BE PLACED IN OUR BEAUTIFUL PRAYER GARDEN AT ST. BERNADETTE CHURCH.

PURCHASE AN ENGRAVED BRICK FOR PLACEMENT IN OUR GARDEN TO REMEMBER A DECEASED FRIEND OR RELATIVE.

BRICKS COME IN TWO SIZES:

1.4X8: \$250 AND ALLOWS 3 LINES WITH 13 SPACES IN EACH LINE.

2.8X8: \$300 AND ALLOWS 6 LINES WITH 13 SPACES IN EACH LINE.

PLEASE, NO NICKNAMES.

100 PERCENT OF THE PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR PARISH. We thank you in advance for your support.

TO ORDER BRICKS OR ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT:

MICHAEL FIMIANI AT 203-627-9216 OR RALPH ESPOSITO AT 203-481-8238.

ORDER FORMS CAN BE EMAILED TO YOU UPON REQUEST. PAYMENT DUE UPON SUBMISSION OF ORDER FORM.

CHECKS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

K OF C RODRIGO COUNCIL #44

LAST DAY TO ORDER A BRICK WILL BE LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023.



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 and pay for rent and utilities.



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



May 27 & 28, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Borino 4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick 8:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso 9:00am SB: Fr. Patrick 10:00am OLOP: Fr. Kelly

11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso

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June 3 & 4, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Patrick 4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Murasso 8:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick

9:00am SB: Fr. Kelly

10:00am OLOP: Fr. Murasso 11:15am SVDP: Fr. Patrick

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June 10 & 11, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Murasso 4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Patrick 8:00am OLOP: Fr. Kelly 9:00am SB: Fr. Murasso 10:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick 11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso ****** ******

June 17 & 18, 2023

4:00pm OLOP: Fr. Patrick 4:30pm SVDP: Fr. Borino 8:00am OLOP: Fr. Patrick 9:00am SB: Fr. Murasso 10:00am OLOP: Fr. Kelly 11:15am SVDP: Fr. Murasso



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