

PASTORAL PLAN FOR REOPENING ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I encourage all who make the prudent judgement for themselves not to return to church for Mass, to instead participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and view other good quality spiritual programming on Catholic TV, found on your local cable Channel 268 or on EWTN, Channel 56. Mass is televised each Sunday at 11:00am on Channel 6. You can also view daily Mass on-line at <http://www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass>.

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

God bless,
Fr. Bill Rodrigues

**MASS INTENTIONS
THIS WEEK**

Saturday 5:00 Ozon Family, Bill Dunning
 Sunday 8:00 Lydia Shaughnessey
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 10:00 James Zeiss
 Monday 8:00 Richard Auda
 Tuesday 8:00 David Callahan
 Wed 8:00 Julia Sapelli
 Fri 8:00 Richard Valicenti

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 Ann & Pat Patterson, Harriet Royal
 Sunday 8:00 Ray Newman
 Catherine Gallagher Brimmer
 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 10:00 Lois Catherine Zutell

COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!

July 12 Regular \$6,584.89
 July Harvest \$1,581.59

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

DIOCESAN APPEAL — \$46,140.00

The Diocesan Annual Appeal continues through this month. If you have not yet donated, it is convenient and easy to do so online at www.givefrdiocese.org/2020. If you are unable to make a financial gift, the gift of your prayers in support of our ministries is greatly appreciated.

GABRIEL SYSTEM ON-LINE GIVING

We are so grateful to all who have donated through the envelope system or through Gabriel, our new on-line giving program. **Whether you choose to continue with the envelopes or donate on-line, we encourage everyone to register with Gabriel so we can build an up-to-date parish census including emails and mobile phone numbers to better handle situations like this going forward.** **Directions:** On the left-hand side of the SJA website home page scroll down beneath the photo of the church until you see the Online Giving Icon. Click the icon which gives you two options: one to register and one to donate. Please register BEFORE making an on-line donation so the system will recognize you.

SHARE THE NEWS

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

**PLEASE HELP US KEEP
THESE LISTS UP TO DATE**

PRAY FOR THE ILL OF THE PARISH

Martin Coughlin, Loretta Stephens, Harry Marcoux, John Keane, Tris Windle, David Cousins, Lynne Scalia, Alex Podeszwa, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Anne Caruso, John M. Pollard, Peter Cruickshank, Bill Hannon, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Tyler Bencoter, Agnes Wolfgang, Fr. Paul Smith, Marilyn Drewes, Ray Castriotta, Julianne Sullivan, Robert Grudzina, Marge LaGrassa, Jim Lewis, Joyce Loechner, Frank Salomone, Chad Larivee, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Gerry Csaposs, Addie Priess, Frank McCarthy, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Paul Kascsak, Patty Camarra, James Manley, Betty Babcock, Thomas Murphy, Chris Frazier, Melissa K., Baby Lillian Thoman, Jessica O., Fran McDonagh, Donna Hibbert, Margaret Royce, Beth Nixon, Anne O'Brien, Ben McMahan, Gerry Moynihan, Martha Moynihan, Richard Paskiewicz, Mary Rodrigues, Emily Sparks, Stephen Moreau, Paula Madeiro, Paul Brandon, Rita Folger, Gerri DiCristina, Kathleen Kilmer, Marguerite Forren, Mary Pickard, Deepthi Moola, Steve Novick, Ernie T., Eleanor Symecko, Joseph Wignot, Hector Pelletier, Bob Cunnane, Thomas McSparron

**PRAY FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE
MEN AND WOMEN**

Brandy Nelson, Timothy Horigan, Scott Doucette, Michael Wilson, David Lucas, Sean Lucas, Peter Civita Shayne, Peter Cabral, Gregory DeLuca, Joshua Schmitt, Joseph Long, Brad Howard, Thomas Scudder, Jeffrey Stebbins, Phillip McDonough, David Wilcox, John Amick, David McDonald, Lt. Edward J. Maloney, Andrew Kelley, William James Miller, David Orloski, Stephen Tamaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Pruffer, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

FR. BILL'S HOMILIES ON SJA WEBSITE

Audio recordings of Fr. Bill's homilies are uploaded to our Parish Website each week. Go to www.joanarc.org to find the audio link on our home page.

KENYA COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

God is good all the time! All the time, God is good!

This phrase repeated multiple times at every Holy Cross Parish Mass conveys the love and hope we experienced in Dandora, Kenya.

With gratitude and full hearts Dennis and Barbara Smith, Jim Schermerhorn, and Anna Schantz from our Parish Youth Group returned from Holy Cross Parish in early October. We experienced the joy of exuberant celebrations of the Eucharist during an English and also during a Swahili Mass. We met with the St. Vincent de Paul ministry and helped distribute flour, salt and toilet paper to the needy. We visited St. James Pre-School (250 children) and Elementary School (450 students) and found curious and playful preschoolers and engaged elementary students. We met the five students our parish sponsors with scholarships, one of whom is the school student president! And we had the opportunity to spend a day at the Brother Andre Medical Center where our financial support enables early detection of cervical cancer, a leading cause of death among women in Kenya. Our support also enables women to be vaccinated for HIV. As a result the transmission of HIV from mothers to children is close to zero. We also saw two sets of twins recently born, thriving because of the professional medical delivery they received at the Brother Andre Medical Center. See an informative powerpoint presentation and a video on our website at https://joanarc.org/kenya_konnection_1.htm. The generosity of St. Joan of Arc Parish has been truly life changing for the people of Holy Cross Parish for over 10 years!

NEXT WEEKEND we will hold our annual Kenya Konnection. During this difficult time we ask that you once again help provide hope for the people of Holy Cross Parish. Your generosity will help us continue to provide elementary and high school scholarships as well as lifesaving medical assistance to prevent HIV and tuberculosis transmission and screenings for cervical cancer, the leading cause of death among women in Kenya.

Checks — made out to St. Joan of Arc Church, noting Kenya in the memo section — may be left in baskets at the doors to the church. A Kenya option has been added to the parish website for those wishing to donate online.

GOD IS LIKE . . .

Did you ever wonder — about God — who God is — what God is like? Jesus, the Master Story-teller, gives us not one, but three descriptions of God in today's Gospel. The invisible growth of God's life in us is compared to the organic miracles that occur in the field; in the kitchen; and everywhere, if we really look.

God is the Patient One: God is like the patient farmer whose perspective sees beyond the apparent “weeds”; whose love allows for growth and insight; whose mercy extends to the “good” and the “bad” alike; whose nurturance cultivates growth, ripening, and maturity. We might ask ourselves about our own *patience quota* — our quickness to make short-sighted judgments; our impatience with those whose opinions differ from our own; our willingness to wear masks during these uneasy times and our willingness to allow others his/her “space”.

God is the Extravagant One: God is like the “risk-taker” of whom Pope Francis speaks. God is the farmer who boldly casts the small seeds of love and blessings into the wind — allowing growth to spread and flourish in the least likely places — to spread like wildflowers in the fields; and to explode into life in even the most hardened of hearts. One might ask if we are just a bit too cautious or too fearful to love so freely.

God is like the Transformer — the transforming “energy” that produces amazing change — the baker whose pungent yeast mysteriously raises ordinary flour into something larger — and wonderfully airier. God is as much at home in the kitchen as in the temple; in the homes of the powerful as well as the dwelling places of the vulnerable; in the presence of people of every race, color or creed. Are we willing to *knead the dough* of our ordinary circumstances — to do “small things with great love”- (*Mother Teresa*) — trusting that God does indeed dwell in us and that God will make something wonderful of our small ordinary efforts?

Jesus paints a picture of “*who God is and what God is like*” through parables. We are given images that imprint themselves in our imaginations and make their way deep into our hearts. The Divine Mystery is revealed to us not through lofty explanations, but through the “*Aha*” of *Inspiration*. God's own Spirit breathes the truth of God's exquisite *patience* and forbearance; God's *extravagant* love; and God's *transforming* presence into our souls so that we might “*grow*” these qualities in ourselves and help to plant them in our world.

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