

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 ... Saturday at 5:00pm, Sunday at 8:00am and 10:00am. 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 judgment 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.

**MASS INTENTIONS
THIS WEEK**

Saturday 5:00 Wayde Mason, Morris Fuller
 Sunday 8:00 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 10:00 Frank Davis
 Monday 8:00 Robert Kasproy
 Tuesday 8:00 Edward Fahey
 Wed 8:00 Matt Johnson
 Fri 8:00 Eileen Keough

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 Richard Auda
 Sunday 8:00 Parish Family
 10:00 Lew Carrington

COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!

September 6 Regular \$ 6,798

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK — HARVEST COLLECTION

GABRIEL SYSTEM ON-LINE GIVING

Thanks to all who have donated through the envelope system or through Gabriel, our online giving program. **Whether you choose to continue with the envelopes or donate online, we encourage you to register with Gabriel so we can build an up-to-date parish census that will include emails and mobile phone numbers.**

Directions: On the left-hand side of our 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: 1) to register, and 2) to donate. You only need to register when making your first online donation.

**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 Prufer, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

Nikolaus A. Sebestyen

**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 Cruckshank, Bill Hannon, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Tyler Benscoter, 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, 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 McMahon, 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, Evelyn Reidel

**An Invitation from Abundant Hope
Pregnancy Resource Center**

Please join Abundant Hope on Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 pm for their annual fundraising event. This year's virtual event will feature client testimonials and some surprise guests that we know you will enjoy. Please help us continue to provide life-affirming support to women in a crisis pregnancy by registering for this free event at <https://ahprc.ejoinme.org/2020celebratelife>. Invite your friends and family and watch from the comfort of your own home! Please contact Joanna Wissler (508)243-5307 with any questions. Thank you for your support.



Pastor's Corner

Celebrating Catechists and Family Faith Formation during a Pandemic!

Dear parishioners and friends,

It has been said that the year 2020 is like none other in living memory. This is truly an extraordinary time in which we find ourselves today. I would like to take a moment now to share with you some of the ways our St. Joan of Arc Parish Faith Formation is persevering through these days of pandemic – especially mindful of our young people and their families.

While so much remains uncertain, there are a few things that are certain. For one, supporting highly-stressed families and assisting them in integrating faith in their family lives has never been more important. Also, we know that God does not “social distance” from us. To navigate the challenges we face this year, we are striving to be creative as well as practical. Just as we tune into the various forms of communication that surround us in abundance – we tune into the Holy Spirit and use technology to help us support each other in inspiring and healthy ways. Our parish is fortunate to have a team of dedicated catechists, led by our Director of Faith Formation, Judy Burt-Walker, who are on-board to meet the challenge. We extend to them our prayers and gratitude!

What are some of the “creative and practical” ways in which we are navigating the challenge of Family Faith Formation during this pandemic? We have chosen a flexible e-resource that is adaptable to our needs and those of families in different situations. It is called “Growing Up Catholic Faith Stories”. It offers step-by-step guidance for the parent or guardian; a story approach using the parables of Jesus; and age-appropriate discussion questions and activities. The catechists are the designated “coaches” and “communicators” for the parents. They are on hand to follow up on the email lesson of the week which the family will have received – and to be of assistance in whatever way needed. The lessons are also adaptable to a hybrid model should we eventually have some small group meetings in the Parish Center. The weekly resource has everything the family needs for a fun and engaging

session. It offers them an opportunity each week to share their stories of faith in an unpressured way with their children.

We are blessed and grateful to have a Community of Faith that supports our youth in whatever way possible through prayer, hospitality, encouragement and financial contribution. Next weekend, September 20, is Catechetical Sunday. Your contribution to this Special Collection enables us to fulfill and advance the mission of the St. Joan of Arc Faith Formation Program this year.

Thank you for your support in these extraordinary circumstances as we strive to tend to those things that are always essential: The Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Love and a profound sense of heartfelt community.

God bless,
Fr. Bill Rodrigues

Back to School Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God,
Creator of body and mind and heart.
You have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge
to guide your people in all their ways.

At the beginning of this new school year,
in this time of uncertainty and anxiety,
we implore your mercy.

Bless and protect our students, teachers,
staffs and their families.

Give wisdom to the decision makers,
be they in our schools or in our homes.

Expand the horizons of our minds,
and deepen our commitment to seek
the truth of your ways.
Enliven our faith to reach out to those in need,
particularly those isolated and lonely.

In these days when so much has changed,
help us to trust in the love of your Son Jesus,
our Divine Teacher, who is the same
yesterday, today, and forever.

Amen.

LOCAL RE-OPENS

LOCAL volunteers are providing lunches and other grocery items for TAKE-OUT from the Parish Center each Tuesday. Pick up time is from 11:30 to 12:30 only. Those picking up items must wear face masks and bring their own bags. Social distancing must be maintained and only one person at a time will be allowed into the center where volunteers will distribute meals and some groceries immediately inside the doors.

STREAMING MASS

The 5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass will now be streamed to Facebook each week. To view the Mass, go to the parish website at www.joanarc.org and press the Facebook icon. This will launch the St. Joan of Arc Parish Facebook page. The Mass will be at the top of the postings. Audio recordings of the weekend homily are posted on our parish website, as well.

BEWARE OF FRAUDULENT CALLS

It has come to our attention that telephone calls have been made to Massachusetts homes recently using a caller ID with the name of local churches. They claim to be calling to correct a problem with the individual's Social Security status. These are fraudulent calls and should be ignored. Above all, do not provide any personal data to these callers. It appears that they are creating caller ID's with the names of local churches in an attempt to deceitfully gain the trust of those they call.

STATE OF THE DIOCESE REPORT

Bishop da Cunha and the Diocese of Fall River recently released a *State of the Diocese of Fall River Report, 2014-2019*. The intent of the publication is to provide parishioners, benefactors, volunteers and employees with a better understanding of how their support enables the mission of the Catholic Church in Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the Islands. We hope you find it helpful and informative. The full report is available on the diocesan website <https://www.fallriverdiocese.org/>

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,

Reflection by Judy Burt Walker

Director of Faith Formation

Love or Bitterness

Scripture scholar Bill Moore tells the true story of a friend who walked in shocked disbelief from her office on *September 11, 2001* – a date we will never forget – to an ecumenical prayer service at a near-by church. As she walked she searched her soul for a response to the violence and horror of the day's events. Then it came to her that she, herself, was harboring deep anger and resentment – a *violence* of negative emotions toward a co-worker. On her knees at the service, she began to pray for the grace of forgiveness for this co-worker. She knew that this small prayer would not undo the day's huge horror, but it might remove a little bit of hostility from the world – and add a bit of the healing power of forgiveness.

Another story, related in the novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, describes a mythical woman named Amaranta (*amor-love; amarga-bitterness*). Amaranta had received a vision that she was to weave her own shroud. When it was finished, she would die. Faithfully she wove every day – sometimes re-working it – tearing out threads; adding color and design – until the day it was done, and she was ready to die. Her task was symbolic of the undertaking of every human life – the weaving of our own life-stories: mending, making mistakes; introducing new textures and colors; reworking – until one day the task is complete. We cannot determine what will come our way – such as an unexpected virus – but we *can* decide how we will weave it into the story of our life – how we will interpret it and whether we will let it engender *love or bitterness*.

Today's scriptures remind us that God's unlimited forgiveness is the *foundation* of God's reign. The parable of the unforgiving debtor; and the number of times we are expected to forgive, might cause us to ask: "*What kind of world do we want to create? Does it fit the blueprint for God's kingdom? Are we weaving the fabric of our lives with mercy and forgiveness, or with bitterness?*"

As Gospel Communities, the world we pray for can only come about through the work of human hands – hands that are open and receptive to grace; hands extended in gestures of mercy; hands willing to work together to create a world worthy of the People of God. In this work, forgiveness and healing are foundational. As Pope Francis says in "*Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family*" – "*the mercy of God is the 'beating heart' of the Gospel*".