

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 & 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 ft. between people (or households), means 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 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 face covering. Please provide your own masks. While there is hand sanitizer available at the entrance, please consider providing your own, 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 Richard Auda
 Sunday 8:00 Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
 10:00 Lew Carrington
 Monday 8:00 Nikolaus A. Sebestyen
 Tuesday 8:00 Coriolano Peixoto
 Wed 8:00 Austin Burke
 Fri 8:00 Bill Smith

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 Sr. Catherine Costello & Sr. Marie Brown
 Sunday 8:00 Deceased Vincentians
 Fred Alogna
 10:00 Ruth Newman

SEPTEMBER 13 COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!

Regular Collection \$ 6,925
 Harvest Collection \$ 1,770

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEK — Religious Education

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 Pruffer, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

Pray for our Deceased Vincentians



William Averill	Walter Ollen
Betty Clark	Frank O'Neil
Joe Conlan	Anne Ouellette
Peg Deegan	Patrick Reynolds
Teresa Del Conte	Patricia Rotman
Michael Griffin	Dorothy Sheehan
Ruth Kantorski	Fay Shook
Margaret Lajoie	Bill Smith
Audrey Moran	Chris Thorne
Katherine Murrman	Bob Ward
Kay O'Brien	Charlie Wolff
William O'Brien	

**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 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, Evelyn Reidel



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 receive – 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. This weekend, September 20th 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.

Back of the Line

LOCAL RE-OPENS

LOCAL volunteers are providing lunches and grocery items for TAKE-OUT from the Parish Center each Tuesday. Pick up time is from 11:30-12:30 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 is allowed in the center where volunteers will distribute meals and 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 our 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.

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.

KENYA KONNECTION

The parishioners of Holy Cross Parish in Kenya will once again benefit from the generous hearts of their sisters and brothers in St. Joan of Arc Parish. \$5,196.75 was raised this year through the Kenya Konnection Collection in late July. Your contributions will support the elementary and high school education of 5-7 children and provide support for the Brother Andre Medical Center which focuses care on the women and children of Dandora. God is good! All the time!

If you were away in July and wish to make a contribution for Holy Cross Parish, donations may be mailed to the rectory with Kenya noted in the memo section for checks.

Have you ever found yourself grumbling – filled with resentment at the unfairness of whatever seemed the injustice of the moment? As a child perhaps your sibling got the bigger piece of cake; as a teen, your friend was chosen for the team and you weren't; as an adult – despite your best efforts – the credit was given to your co-worker. Life doesn't always seem fair in these 'small' things. So is it not surprising that when the big 'injustices' arise, we might even grumble against God – against life itself – with the same envious criticism we hear in today's Gospel: *"It's just not fair! Why should those hired at the end of the day be paid the same wage as those who have toiled from the beginning?"*

Author Flannery O'Connor wrote a story called *"Revelation"*. In the story Ruby Turpin, a very pious lady – proud of her virtuous life – experiences a violent encounter with a young woman in the waiting room of a doctor's office. Here Ruby is confronted – not only with the 'unfair' situation with this woman – but with a sudden *realization* of her own smug and condescending manner in terms of the way she perceives the world – and all those around her.

The story ends with Ruby on her farm gazing up into the sky. There she sees a *vision of a long line of people dancing into heaven*. What shocks her is that this group is being led by people whom she had always looked down upon as being less worthy – people she had resented. Now she sees that the last appear to be first – *a revelation!* Ruby is filled with gratitude and a new perspective.

The Gospel landowner confronts the laborers – and all of us – with our own limited understanding of who God is, and how radically generous is God's love for us. Like Ruby Turpin, the parable gives us a vision of the nature of God which can perhaps be seen best from the *back of the line*. From this vantage point we begin to see that our perspective is quite limited. When we are at the front, we are easily blinded by our own self-righteousness. The back of the line offers the opportunity to notice God's graciousness – how lavishly God pours grace out on all and how that grace works through all – even upon those we deem 'less worthy'.

From the back of the line, we can begin to understand the words of Isaiah: *"Your ways are not my ways, says the Lord."* We get a glimmer of what God's way *is*. The more we 'see' God's generosity poured out on all alike – the more our resentments soften and gratitude replaces criticism. God's radical grace shifts our small-mindedness to the open-heartedness of compassion, mercy, and understanding. – *A reason to dance, indeed!*

Reflection by Judy Burt Walker, Director of Faith Formation