

## 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 Srs. Catherine Costello & Marie Brown  
 Sunday 8:00 Deceased Vincentians  
                   Fred Alogna  
                   10:00 Ruth Newman  
 Monday 8:00 Parish Family  
 Tuesday 8:00 Charles Cacciola  
 Wed 8:00 John P. Moran  
 Friday 8:00 Jack Deegan

**NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday 5:00 Tom Hawko  
 Sunday 8:00 Loretta Reiter  
                   10:00 Charlie Wolff

**SEPTEMBER 20 COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!**

Regular Collection                   \$ 5,571  
 Religious Education Collection     \$ 840

**SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEK**

Cardinal Medeiros Residence

**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.

**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](http://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.

**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, Peter Andersen

**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 Tammaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Prufer, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken



## Pastor's Corner



This week we enter into the month of October which is traditionally dedicated to the recitation of Our Lady's Holy Rosary. According to an account by fifteenth-century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Dominic in the early 1200's after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy of the time. Mary praised him for his valiant fight against the heresy and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others. Since the prayers of the Rosary come from Our Lord Himself, from Sacred Scripture, and from the Church, it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven. The twenty mysteries of the Rosary are divided into four equal groups, known as "The Joyful," "The Sorrowful," "The Glorious," and "The Luminous Mysteries."

If we consider the power of the Rosary as seen in its effects, we find a great abundance of proofs of its value. There are many favors granted to individuals through its devout recitation and there are few devoted users of the Rosary who cannot testify to experiencing its power in their own lives. This was true in the lives of such saints as Teresa of Avila, Francis de Sales, Louis de Montfort, Alphonsus Liguori, Don Bosco, Bernadette, and many more.

Pope Benedict XVI in an address at the Basilica of St. Mary Major where he prayed the Rosary with the faithful said: *"Today, together we confirm that the Holy Rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the Rosary is experiencing a new Springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary. In the current world, so dispersive, this prayer helps to put Christ at the center, as the Virgin did, who meditated within all that was said about her Son, and also what he did and said. When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ's mission are traced. With Mary, the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the center of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory. May Mary help us to welcome within ourselves the grace emanating from these mysteries, so that through us we can "water" society, beginning with our daily relationships, and purifying them from so many negative forces, thus opening them to the newness of God. The Rosary, when it is prayed in an authentic way, not mechanical and superficial but profoundly, it brings, in fact, peace and reconciliation. It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the center of each "Hail Mary".*

In October we remember Mary both as Mother of God and as our mother. This month includes the feasts of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7) as well as those of Pope St. John Paul II (October 22), and Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (October 6), both great devotees of Mary. October also begins with the memorial of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus. The French Carmelite once wrote that she was drawn especially to Mary, not so much because she is Queen of heaven, but because she is our mother. Let us, with St. Thérèse among all God's saints, this October and forever, rejoice that we are children of so great a mother.

God bless,  
Fr. Bill Rodrigues

## CALL FOR MORE USHERS AND GREETERS!

As we all know, this time of living through the covid-19 pandemic is unlike any other time in living memory. When the Commonwealth of Massachusetts reopened the state, houses of worship were given a series of protocols that need to be followed. Among the essential ministries at this time is that of ushering and greeting. We have been fortunate to have ushers scheduled at each of our weekend Masses. We are asking parishioners who are currently attending Mass in person to consider volunteering for this ministry.

*What does the ministry entail during the pandemic?*  
As all worshippers enter the church now through the Main Entrance, at least one usher must remain at the entrance instructing people to sanitize their hands and wait to be seated. He or she keeps a count of the number of individuals who have entered the church. Another usher is needed to direct people to their pew and assist with the orderly flow of the Communion lines. The more men and women we have for this essential ministry, the less burdensome it will be on the current team of ushers. For further information and to volunteer for this ministry, please contact the Parish Office and speak with Fr. Rodrigues.

### First Communion Congratulations

Congratulations to the First Communion Class who are receiving the Eucharist for the first time this Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. May they continue to nurture the love of Christ in their hearts and minds. Thank you to the families for their support during the past year and for preparing them for this blessed event. The First Communion students are:

Michael Devlin	Viviana Hazel
Matthew Nardini-Fontaine	Brynn Nowak
Kayleigh Smithson	Nathan Sprague
Brayden Woodward	

A special thank you to the First Communion Catechists, Nancy Rouillard and Eileen Budnar, for teaching and guiding these young people for communion. We are so appreciative for all you do!

### 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.

### The Everlasting Message of Fatima

A day of individual and parish consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Saturday, October 3, 2020  
St. Anne's Shrine  
818 Middle Street  
Fall River, MA 02721

Since Our Blessed Mother appeared to three young children in Fatima in 1917, her message has become even more important for us today. As St. John Paul II said: "The message is more relevant than it was in 1917. It is still more urgent."

- 9:00 am video: Fatima the Great Sign—followed by Q & A
- 10:45 am Procession of Our Lady of Fatima Statue and Crowning Ceremony
- 11:00 am Holy Rosary
- 11:30 am Holy Mass & Consecration of the Shrine to Our Lady
- 12:30 pm Brown Scapular/Miraculous Medal Enrollment
- 12:45 pm Farewell procession with Statue of Our Lady of Fatima



Confessions will be available during the day.

Video will be shown outdoors.

Please bring a lawnchair.

For details,  
call Dennis Onofrey  
@ 508-994-6252

## The Perfect Instrument

A story by Peggy Romanoski was published some time ago in *Guideposts Magazine*. Peggy's story told about a woman – a wife, mother, and an accomplished musician – who was dying of lung cancer. She had asked her friend to help her get her cherished violin repaired and appraised before she died. She believed that it had been hand-made in Germany around the year 1700 and was quite valuable. Her friend complied and took the instrument to a violin-maker's shop. A week later he invited them in to see the repaired violin: the wood had been replaced and the tuning done to perfection – a beautiful restoration! Handing them a magnifying glass they were delighted with the work, and could just make out the faint label: *Centralia, Washington, 1914*. The dying woman identified *Centralia* as an early childhood residence and wondered if it had once been repaired there.

The violin-maker shook his head. He told her that the violin was really a fiddle and the label was where the original owner had purchased it – it was not an expensive classical violin at all! Digesting the news, the woman mused: *"People always commented on the beautiful tone of my violin. I thought I had a fine instrument and all the time it was a cheap fiddle..."*

The violin-maker corrected her saying that *making beautiful music on an inexpensive instrument only underscored her exceptional ability as a musician.*



Just as a musician's love for her music could produce exquisite sounds from the simplest of instruments – so God's loving grace resonates beautifully even in those whom society and culture might stereotype as being insignificant. In Jesus' teachings the hated tax collector and disdained prostitute become instruments of God's compassion and reconciliation. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus upholds

the sacred dignity of all men and women in the eyes of God – the poor, the powerless, the ignored; the forgotten.

We are called to uphold that dignity, as well. The meaning of a person's life is not to be dismissed by vague and inaccurate labels based on shallow judgments such as appearance; economic status; or any other false perception. The Scriptures remind us once again that *God's ways are high above our ways (Isaiah)* – that surrender to grace enables each of us to be a perfect instrument in God's hands.

Reflection by Judy Burt Walker  
Director of Faith Formation

### RCIA

#### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Have you or anyone close to you ever given thought to becoming a Catholic Christian? With a new liturgical year coming upon us, perhaps now is a good time for inquiry. RCIA is a small, faith-sharing community that helps answer such questions and provides a vehicle for either becoming a baptized Catholic adult or being confirmed in the Church. Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 508.255.1257 or Father Bill in the rectory at 508.255.0170 for further information.

### "Be Still"

Our reflection and stillness, facilitated by Judy Burt Walker, continues every Wednesday morning at 8:45 in the Parish Center. All are welcome.

### Fall Registration Begins

- \* Faith Formation registration packets were mailed to all registered families. Please review the information and return the forms as soon as possible. If your child is registered and you did not receive a packet, please contact the Faith Formation Office.
- \* Also, if you have a child planning to attend Kindergarten, First Grade, or are new to the area, you may contact the Faith Formation Office at 508.255.1257 for information on registering your child. We are happy to assist you!