Remember in Your Prayers
ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Compassionate and Loving Father,
In the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of Your presence.
In You allow us to find hope and healing.
Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands.
Be with those who lead and give them Your spirit of wisdom.
Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart.
Wrap Your arms around our world and hold us in Your love.
Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.
We ask this in Your Name.
Amen

Pastoral Staff:
Rev. George M. Couturier, Pastor
Deacon Michael J. Ward, Deacon Emeritus Michael A. Shelto
To visit our website go to: www.saintjosephinebakhita.org or www.sjbrh.org
To follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saintjosephinebakhita/

A Roman Catholic Community
**SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE**

**AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH SETON**
- Sunday 7:30AM & 9:00AM
- Monday & Friday 8:30AM

**AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES**
- Saturday Vigil 4:00PM & Sunday 11:00AM
- Tuesday & Thursday 8:00AM

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND CELEBRATION**

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3pm to 3:45pm at Saint James, other times by appointment.

Baptism: For information about preparation class and to set a date please contact office.

Matrimony: The Archdiocese of Hartford requires a minimum of six month notice and preparation. Please contact Pastor.

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**5th Sunday in Lent**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29, 2020**

**Sunday:**
- Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**Monday:**

**Tuesday:**
- Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2, 4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 11/Is 50:4

**Wednesday:**
- Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:**
- Gn 17:3-9/Ps 18:2, 3a, 3bc, 4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 56/Jn 8:31-42

**Friday:**
- Jn 11/Jn 10:11-32

**Saturday:**
- Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 7d]/Jn 11/45-56

**Next Sunday:**
March 16, 2019

Dear parishioners of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish – as you are aware, we continue to face the challenges of dealing with COVID-19 (coronavirus) across the world, including in our community. We have just learned that one of our parishioners was diagnosed this week with COVID-19. Importantly, I ask that you keep our parishioner and the parishioner’s family in our prayers.

This parishioner is also a Eucharistic Minister at the St. James Church campus. Based on the information we have, we believe this parishioner most recently served as a Eucharistic Minister at the 4p.m. Mass at St. James on Saturday, February 29. The parishioner is always assigned to distribute from the cup rather than providing hosts and we believe that was the case at the February 29th Mass. At this point, we are not sure whether the parishioner had COVID-19 at that point, but we believe they did not have any symptoms. We do not believe the parishioner attended Mass at either St. James or Saint Elizabeth Seton after February 29, but we know definitively that the parishioner was not at Mass this weekend, March 14-15. Therefore, health officials have informed us that they believe the risk of transmission from this parishioner to others was low.

We are in communication with the Town of Rocky Hill, the Central Connecticut Health District, the State of Connecticut, and the Archdiocese of Hartford about the situation, so we have the benefit of expertise and input from these various organizations. As we learn more information, we will certainly share with you as soon as possible.

Given that more than two weeks have passed since this parishioner last served as a Eucharistic Minister, if the Minister did have COVID-19 at that point, it is our current understanding that if anyone who had contact with the Minister at Mass had contracted COVID-19 from that interaction, they would likely have already experienced some of the symptoms of the virus as they usually appear within 2-14 days after exposure. The symptoms include a fever, cough and shortness of breath, as detailed in this resource from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html.

In the meantime, if you believe you are experiencing symptoms or have any other medical questions, we encourage you to contact your physician or other healthcare provider for more information. For more information generally on COVID-19, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

Based on our discussions with health officials, we do not believe this information is cause for alarm. We will continue to take extra precautions around cleaning our Church properties and encourage you to also read the most recent messages from Archbishop Blair found here: https://archdioceseofhartford.org/coronavirus/

Yours in Christ,

Father George Couturier

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Important “Heart Felt” Update 3/24/20

Sadly, we have heard that our beloved parishioner and Eucharistic Minister, Carol deBear, passed away after a very valiant battle against COVID-19. Our hearts are broken and we reach out in prayer and support to Carol’s husband Larrye, her family and many friends.

Be assured that our previous message and report about this case is still relevant. None of our staff, nor other Eucharistic Ministers nor any other parishioner has reported any symptoms related to this situation.

Let us continue to be bound in prayer, and yet, be safe, be wise and be hopeful!

Be sure to join us on FACEBOOK THIS SUNDAY AT 9:00 AM FOR MASS live streamed from our own parish at:https://www.facebook.com/saintjosephinebakhita/

Last week we had 365 people join us and had 3500+ views.

Together at this weekend’s Mass we will lift Carol deBear in prayer.

Blessings

Fr. George Couturier
The Annual Easter Basket collection is CANCELLED. All can mail in a food/gift card to the Human Services Department to the following address.

Rocky Hill Human Services Department
699 Old Main Street
Rocky Hill, CT. 06067

OPERATION RICE BOWL
Jesus asks that we share what we have with those in need. In response to that gospel call, our parish community will be participating in Operation Rice Bowl as a way to encounter Jesus through others, especially the most vulnerable around the world. Rice bowls will be available in the church entries after Mass. Please take one home and use it to enhance your Lenten journey. The spiritual guide contains stories from people who benefit from our participation, reflections for each week of Lent and recipes for simple meals from countries around the world. You will be asked to return them with your Lenten sacrifices when Lent is over. 75% of your donations go to help the poor overseas and 25% remains in the Archdiocese to help alleviate hunger here. As we look ahead to our Lenten journey, may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms an offering of peace, and our prayers a reflection of humble and grateful hearts.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
The beautiful Lenten tradition of the Stations of the Cross will be celebrated each Friday during Lent. The variation of schedule times reflects & honors the slight differences of tradition of each church campus.

Therefore the following schedule is as follows

TENTATIVE DATES:   Saint James:
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE   April 3rd at 5:30pm
                        April 10th at 7pm

Stations and Veneration of the Cross on April 10 will be led by the Confirmation Class

KNIGHT’S CORNER
Palm Crosses & St. Patrick’s Dinner
At this time, if you have questions about Palm Crosses or a REFUND for tickets purchased for the St. Patrick’s Dinner contact Bob Clayton.

Please Note: For the needs of our community in this difficult time, The Knights of Columbus will donate all tickets sales not refunded to the ROCKY HILL FOOD BANK.

Bob Clayton at 860-638-8654 or email
robert.clayton911@gmail.com

“Not Confirmed?... Want to be?”
Well...it’s never too late. Even if you are way “past the age”...or even a little;) ...and not yet Confirmed...you can be. You certainly are not alone. Many, for a variety of reasons, find themselves in this situation. We can help with that! If you have not yet received the Sacramento of Confirmation Saint Josephine Bakhita will be offering preparation sessions for those who may wish to be confirmed this spring. Contact Dcn. Michael for details at:

dcnmichael@sjbrh.org or call 860-529-3222 Ext.14 & leave a message.

OUR WEEKLY SUPPORT *3/22/2020
Thank you for your Giving

SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH

Weekly Offertory: $ 5,860.00
Online Users: $ 2,065.00
Catholic Relief Services: $ 353.00

Next weekend, April 5 is the offering for Monthly Maintenance Collection.
Thank you for your generous support.
**Saint Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation—2020**

Every year Archbishop Blair honors parishioners in each parish for their generous volunteer work by presenting them with the Saint Joseph Medal of Appreciation given at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford. This year the ceremony is Sunday March 22, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. We are happy to announce that this year’s recipients from Saint Josephine Bakhita Parish are Patricia and John Francis. Both have given of themselves generously toward the life of our great parish. Whether it was in our music ministry, or ministries at the altar or talented support of our computer systems, website and parish database; they have given generously of time and talent. So this medal of appreciation is well deserved and we are all grateful for their parish service over the years. **Blessings of Pat and John!!!**

This event has been cancelled but will be rescheduled at a future date at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish.

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**Volunteers Needed for Landscape Saint Elizabeth Seton Campus**

In the past, small teams of parishioners have helped cut down aging trees, trimmed and shaped shrubs & trees, removed old, crowded bushes, maintained the raised patio planter and the Marion garden. The landscaper hired by the parish does a great job with the ongoing maintenance throughout the growing season, but this group of parishioners committed their time, usually a half day, to do other small, short term projects to keep our grounds looking good.

This spring, old rose bushes need to be pulled out of a few gardens at St. Elizabeth’s an old ornamental tree cut down, perennials cleaned up etc. Elizabeth Husmer is the point person for these projects. Together we will find a spring morning to work together on a few of these projects.

**Contact Elizabeth Husmer at elizabeth@sjbrh.org for more information.**

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**Saturday Night Shelter Dinners - Next serving April 18, 2020**

Given the continued spread of the Corona Virus, the ongoing **concerns** of all and the fact that shelter residents continue to need healthy and hearty meals, **we will be making the following changes to our Saturday Night Shelter Dinners.**

* We will continue to provide food so long as parishioners are willing to make donations
* Regardless of whether or not the 4:00pm mass is held, we will continue to collect donations at Father Shea Hall between 3-4pm on the day of the scheduled serving.
* Weather permitting we will have both inside & outside collection tables in order to accommodate donors who are not attending mass or do not wish to enter Fr. Shea Hall.
* Food donations will be taken to the shelter for serving by the kitchen staff at McKinney. Until further notice **WE WILL NO LONGER BE SERVING MEALS.**

These revisions in no way change the fact the this ministry and the efforts of all food and paper good donors and servers are strictly voluntary. We will continue to solicit food donors and servers, but keep in mind if you feel the need to step back for awhile until you’re more comfortable with the world around us, please, do so.

Should you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to let me know.

**Please do all you can to stay healthy!**

Carl Bach

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**Reserve the Date**

**Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

Presents **The Story of Plastic**, a look at the man-made crisis of plastic pollution & its effect on the health of the planet. The film illustrates the crisis: fields of garbage, mountains of trash, rivers and seas clogged with waste and skies choked with the emissions from plastic production and processing.
A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Our families can become wrapped up chasing things we perceive will make us happy. Jesus’ words to Lazarus, He says to us: “Come out” from what entombs you. In this fifth week of Lent “untie” yourself and be free from unnecessary possessions.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND
INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thurs. March 26, ~7PM - St. James Parish Center

JOIN US!! Fr. George and Deacon Michael and Krystyna Ward are hosting a pilgrimage to Poland on May 3-11, 2021. The 9-day pilgrimage starts at $3,098 including airfare, hotel, breakfast and dinner daily, deluxe motor coach, guide and all transfers. We will review the particulars and answer any questions or special concerns that you might have. If you are at all thinking of going, or are just curious, please plan to attend this meeting!!!