MASS TIMES
St. Paul Church
Saturday 4pm Vigil
Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 12pm
Sacred Heart Church
Sunday 9:30am
Weekday Mass at St. Paul Church
Monday-Friday 7am & 5pm

CONFESSION
Saturdays 8:30am-9:30am and 3-4pm

HOLY HOUR
Tuesdays 4-5pm

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month
Baptismal Instruction: 2nd Tuesdays, 7pm

PARISH OFFICE
Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm
Phone 860 828-0331
Email: ourchurch@stpaulkensington.org
Mailing Address:
467 Alling St, Kensington CT 06037
Website: https://stpaulkensington.org

FRANCISCAN FRIARS & DEACON
Fr. Joseph Benicewicz, OFM Conv.
Pastor
frjoseph@stpaulkensington.org
Fr. Michael Englert, OFM Conv.
Parochial Vicar & Guardian
fmichael@stpaulkensington.org
Fr. Peter Tymko, OFM Conv.
Parochial Vicar (on sabbatical)
frpeter@stpaulkensington.org
Fr. Raymond Borkowski, OFM Conv.
In Residence
frraymond@stpaulkensington.org
Deacon Carmen Guzzardi
deaconcarmen@stpaulkensington.org

St. Paul Catholic Parish
A Franciscan Family of Faith
St. Paul Church - 485 Alling St, Kensington CT 06037
Sacred Heart Church - 48 Cottage St, East Berlin CT 06023

March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Let the Church always be a place of MERCY and HOPE, where EVERYONE is WELCOMED, LOVED and FORGIVEN."
-Pope Francis
Staying Connected While Apart – We were created by God to be relational beings. God himself, through the birth of His Son, also created that physical connection between the Divinity and our humanity. Jesus, on the eve of his death at the Last Supper, gave us Himself in the Eucharist so that we can always have contact with him. Yet in these days, we know that it is best for all concerned to have a bit of distance to flatten the so-called curve of this pandemic. While I was working on this column, word came from Archbishop Blair that Masses are now cancelled through April 30 which of course includes Holy Week and Easter. A directive for how parishes might hold those celebrations was to come later in the week. We will do our best to connect you as best we can to these sacred liturgies, which celebrate everything it means to be a Catholic and Christian.

Separated though we are, I thought I would share with you some of the ways that the parish and school staff as well as some volunteers have been working hard to maintain contact with as many as possible in a safe way. Here is a little glimpse of how we have been trying to stay connected.

Spiritually – We continue to broadcast live one Mass a day, Monday to Friday at 7am and Sunday at 8am. You can also view the Mass later, once the live broadcast concludes. We also recorded the Stations of the Cross for you to view online. The number of weekly views over the last two weeks has increased from 754 to 3,059 which is an increase of over 400%. While we are glad that we have these capabilities, I know how disappointing it is not to be able to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. May this longing and desire draw us closer to the Lord.

Visits to the Sick and Homebound – While we are glad that we have these capabilities, I know how disappointing it is not to be able to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. May this longing and desire draw us closer to the Lord.

As a result of our teachers’ efforts, since March 16th, our students have been able to continue their learning on a daily basis through Google classroom, online resources, daily group “chats” and Live Stream classes with their teachers and friends. Assignments are posted daily on teacher web pages and students receive email instructions from their teachers directly to their own Google email accounts. They may then be asked to sign in to Zoom on their Chromebooks or home computers for group instruction at designated times, to watch teaching videos, or share their completed projects with their classmates. Our teachers are even providing extra help as needed through individual Facetime conferences (much appreciated by parents struggling with new math). We are confident now that all students are receiving the same individualized instruction as they always do. They are meeting with success academically and have even been able to complete art projects, practice musical scores on their new recorders, and follow fitness and nutrition programs online! We are most grateful to our teachers who are spending countless hours providing for their students, not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well.

Religious Education – Robin Veronesi, our Religious Education Director, has also been working hard with our catechists to help our Religious Ed students and their families keep up with their religious instruction. Our Religious Education classes were scheduled to wrap up for the year just before Easter. Here is some insight into how we have been staying in touch with these students. “Like many area schools, our Religious Ed program has transitioned to online learning for the remainder of the school year. Each Monday, families receive an email with links to the Gospel Weekly lesson for the upcoming Sunday, a brief online assessment that they email to their catechist and a video of that week’s gospel story.

Please do not hesitate to call and please do not wait until the last moment to do so. As I write this, we as priests are not allowed to go into the hospital to anoint anyone under any circumstance. The Sacraments are so reassuring to people while they are still aware.

Visits to the Sick and Homebound – Our principal, Fayne Molloy, put together this summary about how our school is staying engaged with the students and making sure that their education is continuing. I think it is important to note, that since the first day the students were not in school (March 16) their teachers have been actively engaged with them out of school. This is a result of the planning that our school did before it was announced that schools would be closing. Here is Mrs. Molloy’s summary of what the school has been doing. “At Saint Paul School, our first and foremost challenge has been to continue the high quality education of all of our students from PK3 through our soon-to-graduate eighth graders. In anticipation of the closing of school, the faculty met together on March 10, to begin to plan for their distance learning lessons and activities. Because of ongoing high quality professional development and our state of the art technology, they were well prepared with the tools they needed to address this huge task.

As a result of our teachers’ efforts, since March 16th, our students have been able to continue their learning on a daily basis through Google classroom, online resources, daily group “chats” and Live Stream classes with their teachers and friends. Assignments are posted daily on teacher web pages and students receive email instructions from their teachers directly to their own Google email accounts. They may then be asked to sign in to Zoom on their Chromebooks or home computers for group instruction at designated times, to watch teaching videos, or share their completed projects with their classmates. Our teachers are even providing extra help as needed through individual Facetime conferences (much appreciated by parents struggling with new math). We are confident now that all students are receiving the same individualized instruction as they always do. They are meeting with success academically and have even been able to complete art projects, practice musical scores on their new recorders, and follow fitness and nutrition programs online! We are most grateful to our teachers who are spending countless hours providing for their students, not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well.”
We are coming down the final stretch of Lent. We were created to be connected to God. I encourage you to take some time to connect or re-connect more with God. Maybe by a little more prayer time, maybe by reading from the bible and/or a good spiritual book, or your own ways to draw closer to God. Make the best use of these last two weeks of Lent.

**FR. JOE’S COLUMN IS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.**

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**Blessed Mother Candles will burn this week for**
- †Walter & †Patricia Duplin by their sons & daughters
- †Louis Rich by Lois & Cliff White

**A Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for**
Robert Gadzik for healing by family

**The Gift of Bread will be offered this week for**
- †Maureen Nuerakis Birthday Remembrance by family

**The Gift of Wine will be offered this week for**
- †Ted Ksiazkowski Birthday Remembrance by Pat & Julie

**The Bread for the Poor will be Offered this week for**
- †Special Intention by anonymous

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Saturday, March 28, 2020 Lenten Weekday
4:00 †Robert Fiori by Fiori family

Sunday, March 29, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent
7:30 Parishioners of St. Paul Parish
9:00 †Gerald Verret by wife
9:30 †John Adamowicz by the family
10:30 †Edward Kobus by children & family
12:00 †Bernadette Schreiner by mother Marie & family

Monday, March 30, 2020 Lenten Weekday
7:00 †Eugene Goryl 74th Birth Anniversary by sister Elisabeth
5:00 †Charles Marciano 5th Anniversary by wife MaryBeth

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 Lenten Weekday
7:00 †Ines F. Tee by brother Alfred Tee
   †Joe & †Katherine DeBlasio by Arlene & Bill DeBlasio
   †Jack Stadnicki by family
   †Rita Grygus by Bob & Joan Sheffield
8:45 †Joseph Frank Lavoie by Peter & Karen Lavoie
5:00 †Mary & †Ralph Santilli by Theresa & family

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 Lenten Weekday
7:00 †Mary Dorsey Birthday Remembrance
   by Ronald & Maryann
5:00 †Florence Gontarz by Theresa Zovich

Thursday, April 2, 2020 Saint Francis of Paola
7:00 Larry Mancini Birthday Celebration by wife
5:00 †Liam Larom by Donald Hrenko
   †Joseph Hinchliffe, Sr. 8th Anniversary by wife & family
   †Rosalie D’Valentino 5th Anniversary by a beloved friend
   †Vincent Rossitto by wife & family
   †Souls in Purgatory by Linda & John Nappi, Jr.

Friday, April 3, 2020 Lenten Weekday
7:00 †Robert J. Fitzsimmons by wife Anita & children
5:00 †Stanley Waluk by Clarice & Greg

Saturday, April 4, 2020 Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord
4:00 †Rena & †Arthur Barillaro by Fiori Family

Sunday, April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord
7:30 Parishioners of St. Paul Parish
9:00 †Nazzaro Marino, †Necola Marino and †Elizabeth Marino by wife & family
9:30 †Nick Zuk by family
10:30 †Carl Rival 20th Anniversary by wife & family
12:00 †Jack R. Ramsey Anniversary Remembrance by wife & family

*9:30am Mass at Sacred Heart

See page 6 for Parish Collection amounts.
SAINT PAUL SCHOOL NEWS

Saint Paul School is now taking applications for the 2020-2021 academic year. PreK through Grade 8

To learn more about Saint Paul School, please contact Admissions Director, Kelly Esposito, 860-828-4343 x136 admissions@stpaulkensington.org.

Visit our website and social media pages! https://ourschool.stpaulkensington.org/

Looking for a Good Book?

All this at home time provides the opportunity to relax with a good book. Here are a few faith-based recommendations:

For Kids:
- Beatitales - by Jared Dees
- When I Pray for You
- When God Made You
- When God Made the World - all by Matthew Paul Turner
- The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe - by C.S. Lewis

For Adults:
- He Leadeth Me, An Extraordinary Testament of Faith - by Fr. Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.
- Good Goats: Healing Our Image of God - by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn, Matthew Linn
- I Believe in Love: A personal retreat based on the teaching of St. Therese of Lisieux - by Fr. Jean C.J. D’Elbee
- The Sacred Romance: Drawing Closer to the Heart of God - by Brent Curtis & John Eldredge
- Streams in the Desert: 366 daily devotional readings - by L.B. Cowman
- The Song of the Seed - by Macrina Wiederkehr
- I Stand at the Door and Knock: Timeless messages of faith, hope and forgiveness - by Corrie Ten Boom
- When God Winks: How the Power of Coincidence Guides Your Life - by Squire Rushnell
- Boundaries: - by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend
- Anything by C.S. Lewis: Mere Christianity, The Screwtape Letters, A Grief Observed
- Anything by Henri J.M. Nouwen: The Return of the Prodigal Son – A Story of Homecoming
- Anything by Matthew Kelly: Rediscover Catholicism, Rediscover Jesus, Resisting Happiness
- Anything by Fr. Michael Gaitley: 33 Days to Merciful Love, 33 Days to Morning Glory, Consoling the Heart of Jesus

SPS participated in a Chalk Your Walk activity. Students were encouraged to go outside and get creative with chalk by writing encouraging messages to put a smile on the faces of others. See our Facebook page for more pictures! Below: our Kindergarten class reunited via Zoom for morning prayer, to share well wishes and to discuss class assignments. Our 2nd grade teacher, Miss Perzanowski, met 1:1 with her students to monitor fluency and comprehension. What a great way to stay connected and continue learning! Students in grade K-8 are enjoying their Spanish class with Senor D online.

Bueno Senor D!
Thank you Miss P!
Hello Kindergarten!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
Monday - Thursday 8am - 2pm, Phone 860-828-1934
Website: https://stpaulkensington.org/religious-ed
Email: religioused@stpaulkensington.org
Robin Veronesi, Director of Religious Education
Christina Norton, Administrative Assistant
Thank you for keeping these members of our parish family in your prayers:

- Nancy Adamowicz
- Jacob Ahlquist
- Donald Albert
- Elaine Andrews
- Wyatt Bernard
- Pamela Blankenburg
- Judy Campbell
- Richard Carlson
- Linda Chaffe
- Silas Cipollone
- Lorraine Clark
- Sophie Conti
- Tom Coss
- Karen Cote
- Arlene Cotona
- Robert Cronin, Sr.
- Adeline D’Angelo
- Ramiro Dagna
- Uly Dagna
- Allen Daigle
- Marianne Darling
- Constance DiLorenzo
- Bill Dobbs
- Helen Flannelly
- Nancy Fleming
- Janis Francalangia
- Maureen Freemen
- James Fusco
- Robert Gadzik
- Jack Gebhardt
- Sebastian Giliberto
- Dominico Gionfriddo
- Jonathan Gionfriddo
- Rosemarie Gionfriddo
- Francis Gobar
- Mary Gobar
- Liz Goryl-Phillips
- Maureen Guite
- Lily Harzewski-Burl
- Linda Hannold
- Evan Hill
- Venise Jalbert
- Tracy Tighe Johnston
- Barbara Killius
- Sylvia Kratka
- John G. Kumitis, Sr.
- Ken Lamkins
- Maria Lauria
- Laura Lemke
- Daniel Lewis
- Guy Lombardi
- Ronald Maldon
- Lisa Mangiafico
- Robert Mazzaferrro
- Brandy McWade
- Viola Mercadante
- Michael Mihalko
- Evelyn Modzelewski
- Jessie Modzelewski
- Helen Morrissey
- John Murphy
- Helen Murphy
- Thomas P. Murray
- Gabriella Ogar
- Michael Ogar
- Stanley Pac
- Renee Quinn
- Arthur Roberts
- Esther Ouellette
- Clarence Ouellette
- Our Sailors
- Our Soldiers
- Emma Pagano
- Judy Pappalardo
- Cynthia Paradise
- Jeannine Parent
- Richard Paskiewicz
- Rosemary Pelletier
- John Pink
- Ethan Post
- Catherine Puglisi
- Renee Quinn
- Richard Rampone
- Care Rich
- Rita Richter
- Randy Ripley
- Steven Ripley
- Mary Salerno
- Betty Samuels
- Paul Scalora
- Joan Schwartz
- Guy Simeone
- Patricie Spencer
- Donald Spilka
- Kevin Stanowski
- Luke Szul
- Alfred J. Tee
- Gil Thibeault
- Brian Veley
- Scott Veley
- Louise Webb
- Carrie Zangari
- Please call monthly to keep, add or remove a name, & be sure to get permission from the person to be added.

LENTEN COLLECTION sponsored by our Social Action Ministry will continue in the midst of the current crisis. Donations through April 6 will benefit the Prudence Cran- dall Center, which helps victims of domestic violence, and Family Promise which works with churches to provide shelter, meals, shower/laundry facilities, and other services.

Prudence Cran- dell Wish List:
- Gift Cards to Stop & Shop, Target, Walmart
- Cleaning Supplies—laundry detergent, dish soap, hand soap, floor cleaners, etc.
- Household Supplies—plates, glassware, utensils, etc.
- Towels for kitchen and bath (all sizes)
- Please, no baby items

Family Promise Wish List:
- Cleaning Supplies—bleach, fabric softener, detergent, no pods please
- Hand soap, Tissues, Paper Towels, Kitchen Trash Bags, Postage Stamps, Bath & Hand Towels, Wash Cloths
- Please, no baby items

Please leave donations at the designated area near the entrance to St. Paul Church. (Most convenient place is the elevator-side entrance at the low end of the parking lot). Email thekalents@yahoo.com with any questions.

WORD SEARCH

<table>
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<tr>
<th>LAZARUS</th>
<th>MARTHA</th>
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<tr>
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<td>SISTERS</td>
<td>OINTMENT</td>
<td>JUDEA</td>
<td>PRAYER</td>
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Please call monthly to keep, add or remove a name, & be sure to get permission from the person to be added.
INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR PARISH? Please attend our next Registration night on **Monday, April 13th**. The meeting will be held in the St. Paul Church Hall beginning at 7pm. Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling the parish office at 860-828-0331 (M-F 8am-4pm) or by emailing us at ourchurch@stpaulkensington.org. (We will let you know if the meeting is cancelled.) *Registration is held on the 2nd Monday of every month.*

Our office has recently noticed an increase in the number of parishioners making donations through Online Giving. We are very grateful for your continued financial support during this unprecedented situation.

*Important note:* Within the past week, some parishioners have made Online Giving donations, including recurring donations, however the individuals did not enter their name along with the donation. In order to be sure you receive confirmation of your donation for tax purposes, please be sure to include your name when you sign up for Online Giving. If you have already made a donation and may have forgotten to include your name, please call the parish office from 9am to 4pm. Thank you!

For those who would like to begin Online Giving: Simply go to our website [https://stpaulkensington.org/](https://stpaulkensington.org/) and click on the green **Create New Account** button and follow the prompts through the simple set up process. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

<table>
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<th>Collection - March 21/22</th>
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<th>Sacred Heart</th>
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<tr>
<td>Online Giving</td>
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<td>125.00</td>
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Envelop contributions will be posted at a future date.

If you would like to drop off your envelopes, the office will be open from 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. You can also drop them anytime through the mail slot in the front door of the Parish Center. Thank you.

**Fr. Joe’s Column CONTINUED…**

**Update on the Parish Annual End of the Year Appeal** – As is usual, we continue to receive gifts to the parish’s Annual Appeal that went out in December. To date 392 parishioners have donated $58,214 making the average gift $148.50. Thank you to everyone who has donated thus far. You can still send in donations and they can also be made online. The donor list will be published in next week’s bulletin.

**Easter Memorials** – All of the Easter Memorials will be published in the Easter Bulletin. To be included in that bulletin, the Memorials must be received in the office by this Wednesday, April 1st. The Easter Memorials can also be done online. Memorials received after that date will be printed in a subsequent bulletin.

**Weekly Collection** – Last week 168 parishioners made their weekly donation online. See the column to the left for how you can give online as well. Others have been dropping off their envelopes at the office. All of this is greatly appreciated and needed as our expenses are pretty much the same. Thank you!

**Final Thoughts** – First there was COVID19 now there is SWS, Sports Withdrawal Syndrome. While no teams are playing, we can still work on our spiritual training this Lent so keep the faith, keep praying, and keep safe. Have a blessed week everyone. – Fr. Joe
The Pretzel: Brought to You by Lent
by Elizabeth A. Elliott, February 28, 2018

Pretzels come in many flavors, shapes, and sizes — not unlike us. These treats are great for cheese or other dips or just by themselves. But have you stopped to consider they actually have a historical place in Lent?

If you take a moment to look at the typical twist pretzel, you can see that it is a model of the common prayer position from the early 600s of folding your arms over each other on your chest and putting your hands on your shoulders.

Pretzels were developed as an option to satisfy abstinence and fasting laws of the time. Eggs, fat, and milk were forbidden during Lent. So, the remaining ingredients that one could use included water, flour, and salt. A young monk baked the first pretzel - making a Lenten bread of water, flour, and salt, forming the dough into the prayer position of the day and baking it as soft bread. These first pretzels would have been much like the soft pretzels we have today.

Greg Dues, in his book “Catholic Customs and Traditions,” explains more of the pretzel history: “These little breads were shaped in the form of arms crossed in prayer and were called bracellae (Latin, ‘little arms’). Among the Germans the word became ‘bretzel’. These pretzels were a common Lenten food throughout the Middle Ages in Europe, and became a year round snack, in its original shape only in the 19th century.”

The suggestion of arms crossed in the form of prayer may have led to pretzels being given as a reward to young children when they could recite their prayers. Pretiola means little reward, which could also be a derivative of the term pretzel. The three holes in a pretzel are also said to represent the Holy Trinity.

After their invention, pretzels became a symbol of good luck, long life, and prosperity. They were commonly given to the poor and hungry. The legend of the hard pretzels that we snack on today tells of an apprentice baker who fell asleep while preparing pretzels and let the fire begin to die out. When he noticed, he restarted the fire, but the result was overcooked pretzels. The surprise was a tasty treat that was less perishable than the soft pretzels and easy to have available to give to those in need.

Food has long played a role in our faith, especially during Lent. We abstain from certain foods, such as meat, and spend time fasting. This practice can provide us with a deeper religious experience by joining us with people throughout the world who struggle to survive. Fasting is an opportunity to be in solidarity with those who experience physical and spiritual hunger.

Full article: https://bustedhalo.com/life-culture/pretzels-and-lent

Spending more time at home presents an opportunity to try something new in the kitchen! Try making your own pretzels and then before “breaking bread” with your family, recite the special prayer below.

- 1 1/4 cups hot water (85°)
- 1 tablespoon dry yeast
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 to 2 teaspoons water or milk
- Coarse salt

Let yeast and sugar dissolve in water for one hour. Add flour to yeast mixture and beat until smooth. Knead mixture for seven to eight minutes. Place in a greased, covered bowl and let the dough rise until double in size. Divide the dough in half; then divide each half into smaller pieces of equal size. Roll each piece in your hands to make pencil shapes 12 to 15 inches long. Shape each length of dough into pretzels. Place on a greased baking sheet. Brush with egg yolk and water or milk mixture. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 325 degrees until lightly browned on top.

Dear God, we ask You to bless these pretzels which we are about to eat. Each time we eat them, may we be reminded, especially in this Season of Lent, of our brother and sisters in mission countries. Help us to remember to pray for those who need our prayers each day. Keep Your loving arms around us, O God, to protect us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

https://www.missio.org/

This article appeared in the February 25th edition of The Epistle Online, our parish newsletter. If you did not receive this in your inbox and would like to receive emails from us with our newsletter and other information, let us know and we’ll add you to our distribution list. Email us at ourchurch@stpaulkensington.org or visit https://stpaulkensington.org/join-our-mailing-list and fill out the simple form. Thank you.
REMINDERS:

Masses - While the public celebration of Masses has been cancelled, our friars will continue to offer Mass privately and all of the Mass intentions that have been requested will be satisfied. The weekday Mass intentions will be satisfied on the day they were scheduled for while some of the Sunday Masses will have to be satisfied during the week. Fr. Michael and Fr. Joe will con-celebrate a private Mass each morning (Monday through Friday) and that Mass can be viewed either live or later in the day at your convenience. On Sunday Fr. Michael and Fr. Joe will con-celebrate a private Mass which can also be viewed live or later in the day. Fr. Raymond will satisfy some of the Sunday Mass intentions while saying Mass in the Friary Chapel.

Streaming of Masses from St. Paul Church - Sunday - 8 a.m. live and also viewable anytime after the Mass is finished. Monday - Friday - 7 a.m. live and viewable anytime after the Mass is finished.

Mass on TV - The Archdiocese’s Office of Radio and Television broadcasts Mass each day at 10 a.m. on WCCT-TV (WB20) and WCTX-TV (MyTV9). On Saturday and Sunday at 5 a.m. on WCCT. The Archdiocesan Mass is also streamed live at these same times on http://www.ortv.org/streaming/streaming.htm.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick & Last Rites - If you or a family member is in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Friars should still be called and our friars will minister to you or them. Please call the office 860-828-0331 or email one of the friars: frjoseph@stpaulkensington.org or frmichael@stpaulkensington.org. In this situation, or at any time, you are highly encouraged not to wait until the last moment to call for a priest to come and visit.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) - Confessions - The Sacrament of Penance will continue to be offered with every precaution taken to ensure social distancing between priest and penitent, preferably with a screen between them rather than face to face.

Confessions will continue to be heard on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Mercy Mondays will also continue during the remaining Mondays of Lent (March 30 & April 6) as well as Tuesday, April 7 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mercy Mondays will continue to include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Funerals - ALL funeral Masses are also suspended at this time. Wake services at funeral homes are not recommended. Grave side services will be permitted, but participation should be limited to immediate family and close friends. A Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased, as provided for in the Roman Missal, can be added to the parish Mass intentions and offered as soon as reasonably possible under the circumstances, or, if the family desires, a public celebration of this Mass at a later date can be contemplated. The funeral homes that usually have funerals here have been informed.

Baptisms - If parents would rather not delay the Baptism of their child, it may take place in church, but participants should be as limited as possible in keeping with the limits established by the civil authorities. Parents who have baptisms scheduled will be contacted by the parish secretary.

Weddings - The celebration of weddings may continue if the couple does not wish to reschedule, but without Mass. Participation should be regulated in keeping with the limits established by the civil authorities. Thankfully, we do not have any weddings until late June.

Times that our churches will be open - St. Paul’s will be open as follows: Sundays 9am to 3pm; Mondays 8am to 8pm; Tuesday - Friday 8am to 6pm & Saturdays 8am to 4pm. Sacred Heart Church will be open on Sundays from 9am to 11am and Wednesdays 5pm to 7pm.

Parish Office Hours - Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm.

Other Religious Services - All other services, including Tuesday Holy Hour & Stations of the Cross, are cancelled.

Please refer to our Parish Calendar on our website for the most up-to-date information about whether an activity will be canceled or not.

Stay well.
First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalms: Chapter 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11
Verse Before The Gospel: John 11:25A,26
Gospel: John 11:1-45

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

The practice of Lectio Divina has resurfaced in recent years and in these uncertain times in which we live, this traditional monastic form of prayer and meditation is a wonderful way to grow closer to God and to find peace.

Lectio divina, or “divine reading”, is a method for praying with the Scriptures that dates back to early monastic and religious communities. “As one reads and invites the Word to become a transforming lens that brings the events of daily living into focus, one can come to live more deeply and find the presence of God more readily in the events of each day.”

The method of Lectio Divina follows these steps:
- Lectio (reading) - Choose a short passage to read.
  The goal is not to rush through several chapters but to read a short passage, pausing on words or phrases that may resonate with you.
- Meditatio (meditation) - Meditate on the reading. Ruminating can draw the focus from concerns of the mind to concerns of the heart.
- Contemplatio (contemplation) - Pray about it. “By God’s grace, contemplatio gives one a unique ability to connect one’s newly discovered insights to daily life experiences”
- Oratio (oration or prayer) - Consider your personal response to God; enact God’s Word in your life.

One can find God in the ups and downs of life, in times of joy and pain, as well as in ordinary, everyday moments.

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.” Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.
FoodShare distribution at Sacred Heart will continue with revised protocols for both the volunteers and for those receiving food. All went well for the March 20th distribution as food was provided to 65 people, a 40-50% decrease. Maintaining the food supply will be a challenge going forward as our food reserves are down, of course. This is especially challenging given the difficulty in grocery shopping itself and the reduced supplies in stores.

If you do have food to drop off, you may drop it at any of the church entrances as usual, but the easiest for you and for the volunteers would be the elevator entrance (the glass doors at the low end of the parking lot near Peck Street).

The church is open M-F from 8am to 6pm, on Saturday until 4pm, and Sunday until 3pm.

FOODSHARE  ST. CLARE FOOD PANTRY & MOBILE FOODSHARE

Volunteers are needed for the St. Clare Food Pantry on Thursday, April 2nd at 10am to transport food from St. Paul to Sacred Heart and to set up for distribution.

Volunteers are also needed on Friday, April 3rd at 11:15am at Sacred Heart Church to help with distribution from Mobile Foodshare and St. Clare’s Pantry. The next distribution date is Friday, April 17th.

For transportation to Mobile Foodshare, please contact the Berlin Senior Center at 860-828-7006.

Donations: All items are needed at this time. Suggestions: canned chicken, ham, beans & other protein sources, rice, condiments, flour, sugar, misc. baking products, soup.

For more information regarding the St. Clare Pantry or Foodshare including volunteering, please contact Nancy Timbrell 860-601-7866.

Thank you to all who generously keep this ministry going and to all volunteers!

Mercy Mondays WILL Continue during Lent
Confession, Adoration, Prayer
Mondays 7-8pm at St. Paul Church
March 30 and April 6

The ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL supports many important ministries & programs. Gifts are allocated towards religious education programs, youth ministries, local charities, education of our seminarians, our retired clergy, our Catholic schools, and the many ministries provided by the Archdiocese. If you have not made a gift, please consider making a pledge or one-time gift. For more information, visit https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/. No appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

BEREAVEMENT Parishioners are invited to our Spring “New Day” Support Group on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm, April 14 - June 9 in the St. Paul Church Hall (basement, wheelchair accessible). The program offers a supportive atmosphere of care and understanding for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Registration brochures are available at the church entrances. Please call the office with questions: 860-828-0331.

Our HELPING HANDS ministry is in need of volunteers to help our seniors with picking up groceries and/or prescriptions, making an occasional phone call, etc. If you would like to be a part of this ministry please call Paula @ 860-828-4512.

HOMEFRONT is a volunteer-driven program that provides free repairs to low-income homeowners, enabling them to remain in their homes. HomeFront 2020 is still scheduled for Saturday, May 2. (Decision will be made by April 1) Consider being part of our team. Call Diane 860-716-9410 or Lynn 860-913-5448.