Spring: A Sign of Hope!
Celebration of Mass and Parish Events
- Priests are still directed to celebrate Mass non-publicly on a daily basis for the good of the People of God, the Church and the intentions of the day.
- All current parish events, including fundraisers and dinners, are to be postponed or cancelled.

Funerals
- No funeral Masses or services, inclusive of those at funeral homes, are to be conducted. Priests and Deacons may conduct grave-side burial services for immediate family members only, mindful of the CDC guidelines for public gatherings.
- Provisions are to be made for the celebration of Memorial Masses after this health crisis subsides.

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
- By having perfect contrition, one can receive the forgiveness of sins, apart from going to confession. This requires the following three things: a love of God above all else, a sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin, the resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides.
- All public gatherings for the celebration of Confessions or the Anointing of the Sick, indoors or outdoors, have been suspended.
- In the gravest circumstances, priests may make themselves available for these sacraments, while following CDC guidelines for personal protection.

Baptism
- The celebration of Baptism is to be suspended for the health and safety of all. In case of emergency (danger of death), the sacrament may be administered.

Matrimony
- All weddings scheduled in the Diocese of Scranton are to be postponed until further notice. While churches may “hold open” the date of a scheduled wedding, whether the sacrament can be celebrated on that date will depend entirely on whether the restrictions for gatherings have been lifted. Priests, Deacons, and Parish Life Coordinators are encouraged to speak to each couple and share this information with them and if necessary assist them in the re-scheduling of the wedding.

Weekdays: Mass from Cathedral via CTV/EWTN
12:00pm  3:00pm  7:00pm
Weekends: Mass from Cathedral via CTV/EWTN
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm
Rebroadcast on Sunday: 10:00am

Cathedral Masses will also be available each day through the Diocese of Scranton’s website.

STILL BEING REMEMBERED...

As previously noted, Masses are being celebrated privately at Our Lady of the Snows Church by our priests to honor the Mass intentions as requested:

MONDAY | APRIL 27TH
Ronald Krafjack...........................(Dewey Krafjack)

TUESDAY | APRIL 28TH
Kenneth Pedri............................(Kathy Olick)

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 29TH
Phoebe and Harold Johnson............(Family)

THURSDAY | APRIL 30TH
Arthur Monacelli........................(Family)

FRIDAY | MAY 1ST
Joseph Dzwonczyk....................(Thomas & Elizabeth Roe)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | MAY 2-3

SATURDAY | APRIL 25TH
Marion Bede..............................(Jim & Marlene Cours)
Thomas Stone...........................(Jamie & Cathy Stone)

SUNDAY | APRIL 26TH
All Deceased Members of Our Lady of the Snows Parish
Cathy Gavern............................(Jack & Virginia Lee, Family)
Mary Pat Jones..........................(Carey & Berry Families)

We remember especially those parish members and friends who have died recently:

Joseph Madus  Lavinia M. Walsh

26 April 2020 | Third Sunday in Easter
Is God a real Being for you or simply an idea to be entertained?

Often, we reduce God to a set of ideas, theories, and principles and neglect to see Him as the One who takes joy in helping us understand all of the events and mysteries of life. God delights in journeying with us and is the only One who can fill us with joy and make our hearts burn with excitement and jubilation.

He is the One who assists us in recognizing the truth that is before us and interpreting not only the jewels of Sacred Scripture but the events of history. If we recognize God, we can also see that He inspires us to see the divine meaning of our own lives as well. Sometimes it takes us a little time.

After all, even Jesus’ closest friends had to walk with Him for a while on the road to Emmaus before their eyes were opened in the breaking of bread.

**Be at Peace**

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from sufferings or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

- St. Francis de Sales
FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Our support of local food banks becomes even more critical in this time of crisis.

Your food donations can be dropped off at the front door of Our Lady of the Snows between 10am and 6pm daily.

HEARTS THAT CARE

If you or someone you know in our parish is in need of any help or support at this time, please give our office a call. Know that we will make every effort to respond as best we can. As a people of faith, caring for one another is of the utmost importance. Call the Parish Center at 570-586-1741.

STILL FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS... WITH YOUR HELP

During the COVID-19 outbreak, employees and volunteers with our Catholic Social Services have been working harder than ever to meet the needs of people in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Due to rising unemployment figures, CSS has quickly seen an increase in the number of people looking for assistance at its food pantries. As a result, the Saint Francis Kitchen/Food Pantry in Scranton expanded its hours and added an additional day of service to serve the community. In Scranton, those seeking assistance rose 27% between March 2019 and March 2020.

Last month, following the guidance of the government and health agencies, both Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton and Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes Barre closed their dining rooms to guests to prevent large gatherings of people. Both agencies quickly transitioned to providing take-out meals outside of the buildings to continue serving our brothers and sisters in need.

To continue to do all of this, your help is needed. To see how you can assist, go to the Diocesan website: DioceseofScranton.org

YOUR MARRIAGE IN NEED OF HEALING?

The stresses being experienced in marriages due to the coronavirus pandemic can be minor irritations caused by day upon day of being cooped up together. The stresses can also be much more serious, such as job loss and financial strain, physical illness, death, or new or worsening mental health issues.

It is essential that you safeguard your marriage during these difficult times. One way to begin is to remember that whatever stressors the two of you are facing, you can face them together as a team. It is not “You vs. Me”, instead it is “Us vs. This Problem our Marriage is Currently Facing”. As a team, working with one another (and with God’s help, too!), you can begin to make progress in addressing the issue at hand.


DEALING WITH LOSS

We have all lost, and we all continue to lose much, to the coronavirus pandemic. From our cherished Catholic community's traditional faith practices and gatherings, to family celebrations, to our regular daily routines, these losses can seem endless. And it is alright for you to grieve these losses.

For an informative perspective on the universal grieving caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic, read, “Coronavirus Has Upended Our World. It's OK To Grieve”, available at DioceseofScranton.org. Visit the Webpage for Grief Support for this and additional resources related to grieving.

GRIEF SUPPORT
SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

During these challenging times, your support of your parish means more than ever. As you know, more than 90% of our parish revenues come by way of Sunday Offerings.

With the public celebration of Masses currently suspended, our revenues continue to diminish. It makes us only all the more grateful to the many kind souls who are mailing in their weekly offerings and Easter gifts to the Parish Center or dropping them off at the Center itself.

Thank you!

Remember also that your weekly gift can be offered through our online giving program. Visit OLSParish.net and click 'Online Giving'.

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