# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A Catholic faith community called to serve God and others through Eucharist, prayer, education, and daily living of the Gospel values.

PARISH OFFICE: 201 CLARK STREET, MIDDLETOWN, OH 45042 (513) 422-0602 www.holyfamilymiddletown.com

## April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

#### Dear Parishioners,

This will be a Holy Week like no other. The lock down, the uncertainty of the future, and the exclusion of all church services makes us all confused and adrift. Last week Pope Francis, in his address to the world, said that "darkness has taken over our lives. We find ourselves afraid, and caught off guard." Certainly our hearts go out for those so affected by this Coronavirus: the families who lost loved ones, the sick and those who care for them, the unemployed and the lonely.

The Holy Father then encourages us to "revive our Easter faith" and reminds us that "by His cross we have been saved and nothing can separate us from His redeeming love." He then calls us to live this faith by renewed energy in serving others in these difficult times. Fortunately, we have many parishioners who are following his lead. So if you need food, someone to pick up medicine, information, or assistance, just call the office. April will be a challenging month. Don't hesitant to call.

**Keeping the church open for private devotion and Confession?** For now we will. We're waiting for directives from the Archdiocese. The situation is very fluid. If we have to close or make any other changes, you will receive a robocall. Use your own judgement about leaving your home. If you're feeling sick or experiencing symptoms of illness, please remain at home. If you do go out, practice safe social distancing and use hand sanitizer.

- You can call the parish office 24 hours a day 7 days a week at 513-422-0602.
- Holy Trinity is open for private prayer from 1:00 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. See page 5
- The Sacrament of Penance takes place 3:00 4:00 PM Saturdays in St. John Church. *for update!*
- Blessed palms will be available at the doors of both churches 12:00 4:00 PM on Palm Sunday.
- Robocalls: We've tried to keep you up to date with three robocalls. If you haven't received one, we don't have your number. So call the office with your new number.
- We don't know when Masses will resume after Easter. Confirmation was scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> and First Eucharist for April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We will keep you posted.
- For a wealth of reading click on LINKS on our parish website <u>www.holyfamilymiddletown.com</u>. You'll find current issues of *America*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *U.S. Catholic* among others.
- Many have mailed in their contribution or are using electronic giving. Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Wishing you a prayerful Holy Week and a Happy Easter.

Fr. John Civille

#### Holy Trinity Church Open For Private Prayer 1 - 4 PM Monday - Friday

Access through the ramp door only. Those who are feeling sick or experiencing symptoms of illness are asked — out of charity towards others — to practice safe social distancing or remain at home.



Use your own judgement about leaving your home.

#### Confessions at St. John Church 3 - 4 PM Saturday

Following Archdiocesan direction, all confessions will be behind a screen and hand sanitizer and lavatory facilities will be available. Only the Baltimore Street parking lot side door of St. John Church will be open. Practice safe social distancing!



Use your own judgement about leaving your home.

### Lent & Easter Reading Materials Available at Holy Trinity Church

These books are free while they last and can be found on the bookshelf

just inside the ramp door. *Busy Live & Restless Souls* and *Mercy in the City* are two Loyola Press titles that

we chose for Lent. For Easter there is *The Little White Book for Easter* and *The Word Among Us* plus the *Living Faith* daily devotional for April, May and June.



#### Our Prayers and Sympathy are Extended

to the family and friends of Ray Kowalczyk, who died March 16<sup>th</sup>, and of Lucile Anthony, daughter of the late Betty Mock, Fr. Klein's housekeeper, who died March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and to James and Jennifer Dietz in the loss of their expected baby.

#### Mass Cancelations & Mass Intentions

At the time of printing this bulletin, it looks more and more likely that we will not be celebrating Mass together for some time.



If you had scheduled a Mass intention for any of the Masses canceled due to the Coronavirus, Monica will be contacting you to reschedule.

#### Find Mass on TV

- The Vatican

EWTN - Spectrum Channels 23, 385 and 1385

Daily Mass at 7 AM, Noon, and 7 PM and NEW 1 AM Pope Francis Private Mass from Santa Marta



#### Find Mass on the Internet -Stream Live or Watch When You Choose

- St. Peter in Chains Cathedral venue.streamspot.com/5a36f117



- voutube.com/user/vatican - Bishop Robert Barron's Chapel
- wordonfire.org/daily-mass/
- Sunday Mass with Fr. Ed Pratt ascensionkettering.org/

Find Mass on the Radio

Sacred Heart Radio 740 AM / 89.5 FM Daily Mass at Noon

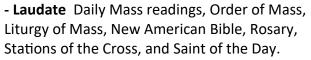


So we find ourselves with the time to establish some really meaningful prayer habits. Try out these Apps:

- **iMissal** Includes a full liturgical calendar with all the Mass Readings. Reflect on unique Bible verses for every day and a large collection of Catholic Prayers.

- **3 Minute Retreat** Take a short prayer break wherever you are and spend some quiet time reflecting on a Scripture passage.

- Click To Pray This app encourages users to pray daily for the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church, as expressed by Pope Francis in his monthly prayer intentions.
- **Sacred Space** Make a 'sacred space' in your day, praying here and now.



#### First Eucharist Prayer Partners!

This is a great time to remember your 2nd Grade Prayer Partner by sending a

little note or card - letting them know that you are praying for them. As First Eucharist will likely be delayed, your prayer partnership is even more important. Share your faith!









#### COVID-19 Call Center 9 AM - 8 PM Daily

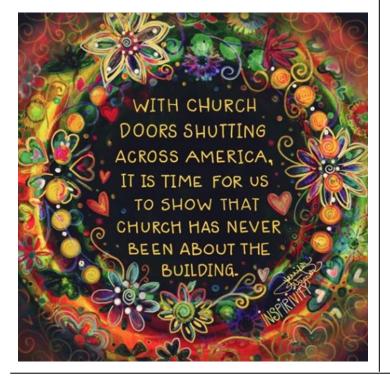
The Ohio Department of Health has activated a call center to answer questions regarding COVID-19. The call center will be open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m— **1-833-427-5634.** 

## Seniors Who Need Help Call 513-721-1025

Middletown Council on Aging

Staff are available to take your call. Let them know what you need. They are there to help!







Let's try to remember that we all process things differently. Some people are falling apart right now, and that's OK. Some people will hold it together until this is all over, then crumble. That's OK, too. Some people won't know exactly how this has affected them for a long time. It's all OK. Everyone is different. And we're all just doing the best we can.

#### Pope Francis Holds Dramatic Solitary Service for Relief from Coronavirus

Pope Francis said the coronavirus had put everyone *"in the same boat"* as he held a dramatic, solitary prayer service in St. Peter's Square on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, urging the world to see the crisis as a test of solidarity and a reminder of basic values.

"Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities," he said, speaking from the steps of St. Peter's Basilica into an eerily empty and rainy square before delivering an extraordinary **Urbi et Orbi** (to the city and the world) blessing - something he normally



does only twice a year. "It has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air...We find ourselves afraid and lost," he said.

"We have realized that we are in the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other," he said. The Pope said the virus had exposed people's vulnerability "to those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules." He praised doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, care givers, transport workers, police, and volunteers, saying they, and not the world's rich and famous, were "writing the decisive events of our time." The leader of the world's 1.3 billion Roman Catholics said God was asking everyone to "reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering." reuters.com

# Meditative Prayers for Holy Week and Easter

## Holy Thursday

Before the paschal feast, when Jesus' hour had come at last to leave this world, he showed his love for us, his own the son of God the father, like a slave, washed his disciples' feet.

Then at the supper with his friends, the twelve, he broke the bread and took the cup and gave his life in bread and wine as tokens of his everlasting love, body and blood of Christ.

I am the way, the truth, the life, he said, I am the vine — abide in me. I am who am, forgiving sins, my peace I leave with you, he told his friends, not as the world gives peace.

When Jesus' hour had come to leave his friends, he raised his eyes to heaven and prayed for those he left behind on earth that they might all be one so that the world might come to believe in God.

Then, going to the garden, Jesus prayed, remove this cup from me, but let me do your will and not my own. A friend betrayed him there, one of the twelve, sold him to die for us.

## Good Friday

Let us pray for this world,

which is sighing and groaning for redemption, for the whole of suffering mankind in the present age, for all those who are the victims of war and racial conflict, for those who are overwhelmed by natural disasters, for all who meet with any kind of accident, for those who are in any kind of danger, let us pray:

#### Lord God,

you have made us mortal and we must die. Do not, we beseech you, take our lives away for ever, you who are a God of the living.

We ask you this for Jesus' sake, today and every day for ever and ever.

## Easter

O holy, most high God, we praise you, lowly as we are, with the voices you have given us and in the name of this world, all your people, that multitude which none can count, we venerate your glory and your power and throw ourselves upon your mercy.

For everything passes, but you remain. You name, your grace continue despite all our sins, for you are God. You do not tire of this your world. You set so much store by human happiness that you gave everything to be our God.

You showed yourself to us in Jesus Christ, enlightened our darkness in your son. In him we behold you, God the father, in him we receive your future and your trust.

He is your word, the light of the world, He is the new Adam, the son of man, born of the earth and spoken by you to the world before all time. He is that word made flesh among us. His life among us was like other men's and he was broken at the hands of men and so he met his death.

Then you did what transcends our understanding on this night he was resurrected from the dead, on this night he disarmed and conquered death. He who was foolish and had no power to save himself became your power and wisdom. Your foolishness, God, is wiser than men and your weakness is stronger than men. How inscrutable are your ways, O God, and how unfathomable is your love! Who was your counsellor, God that you thus gave yourself to the world?

Everything that exists is yours. We owe all that we are to you. All things and all these words are for you and we trust in you, our God. Would you ever let us down?



Sorry -No Palms.

Regrettably, we are not able to make blessed palms available for pick up as we had hoped.

Per clarification from the Holy See (Vatican) 3/25/20:

"The blessed palms are a sacramental that is linked to Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, and therefore there is no provision for blessing them outside of Mass. It would also be inappropriate for unblessed palms to be distributed to the faithful, as it would lead to confusion about their value as a sacramental."

## Holy Family Parish

Pastor	
John Civille	422-0602
Deacon	
John Lyons	422-0999
Music Ministers	
Marilyn Ifcic	425-7113
Mike Kramer	513-435-0873
<b>Religious Education</b>	
Dee Golembiewski	
Parish Maintenance	
Jim Poynter	513-465-8184
FAX	424-7416

Parish Office Staff422-0602	
Dee Golembiewski	
dee@holyfamilymiddletown.com	
Theresa Hurlburt	
theresa@holyfamilymiddletown.com	
Monica Cummins	
monica@holyfamilymiddletown.com	
Kathi Mangus	
kathi@holyfamilymiddletown.com	
St. John XXIII Catholic School	
Dawn Pickerill, Principal424-1196	
Bishop Fenwick High School	
Blane Collison, Principal423-0723	

#### Parish Council Members

Don Accurso	Lois Allen
Dr. Steph Burk	Evan Dobrozsi
Jeff Gephart	Dale Gerber
Dee Golembiewski	Rick Gregosky
Ray Kelly	Adam Lewis
John Lyons	Matt Mulligan
Ryan Mulligan	Dawn Pickerill
Maria Rodriguez	Judy Rogers
Prayer Chain	
Beth Kast	
Carole Orth	
Knights of Columbus513-360-4760	

Baptism Preparation Class - These classes are held guarterly: March, June, September and December. The actual date, time and location will be announced in the weekly bulletin. Please call the parish office to register. **Baptisms** - Please call the parish office to schedule a baptism.

Becoming a Member of Holy Family Parish - Fill out a Census Form at the parish office or download it under FORMS at www.holyfamilymiddletown.com. Drop your completed form in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Becoming Catholic - Please call the parish office to find out more about the RCIA process.

Bulletin Deadline - Submit announcements in hard copy or to monica@holyfamilymiddletown.com by noon Tuesday. Hospitalization or Death in the Family - Please notify the pastor as soon as possible by calling the parish office.

**Marriages** - Couples wishing to be married must set the date with the pastor at least six months in advance.

Nursery - The Nursery is available in the St. John Center during the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass.

Parish Religious Education Program - Preschool: Sundays 10:15 - 11:30 AM and K - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mondays 6:30 - 7:30 PM. St. John XXIII Catholic School - Parish school for Preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - www.stjohn23school.org.





**Please Patronize Our Advertisers**