

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 29, 2020 ~ Bulletin No. 14 ~ Vol. XXXVI

CALENDAR ~ March 28-April 5, 2020

Sat 28	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Florence Hill by Chuck & Janet Hill
Sun 29	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Dr. Robin Pendleton by the Skudlarick Family Mass for ROS Larry Keyes by Peggy Keyes Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call 289-6336 for information
Mon 30	9:00am 7:00am	Mass for ROS Richard Feldmeth, Sr. by Claire Feldmeth Men's Prayer Group
Wed 4/1	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Bill Gardner by the Skudlarick Family
Thurs 2	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass for ROS Deceased Members of the Ricci Family by Andy & JoAnn Cilone Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 3	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS William Young by Claudia Young Men's Prayer Group
Sat 4	5:00pm	Mass for Evan Hill-Happy Birthday by Chuck & Janet Hill
Sun 5	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Tony Johnson by Kate Johnson & Family Mass for Private Intention Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call 289-6336 for information

Announcements

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BURKE REGARDING MASS

The Mass schedule remains in place BUT the in-church Mass attendance is limited to 10 people. This includes the priest, deacon, servers and the Sisters. People are welcome to remain outside in their cars and listen to the Mass over the loudspeakers. Father will bring communion to those waiting outside.

The Confession schedule will also continue, and confessions will be outside as well.

In the Spirit of Sacrifice

Page 2 of this week's bulletin speaks about sacrifice. The following is an excerpt from Bishop Jugis' letter of March 16th which also addresses sacrifices.

The CDC guidelines limiting people from gathering in groups of more than 10 should be maintained even inside the churches by individuals coming in to pray privately: If you enter and see 10 people already inside, please wait outside until it is advisable to enter. Once inside, please practice "social distancing" by remaining 6 feet apart from one another.

The faithful of the diocese are encouraged to watch Mass online or on TV, and make a spiritual communion. (See prayer on the right.)

"The Church must provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful," he wrote in a letter to the faithful March 16, but "as members of the community we are committed to participate in the larger community response. These concerns have guided my decision to dispense from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass as well as canceling or curtailing all other liturgical events and gatherings according to CDC and state government guidelines while allowing local priests to provide for the needs of their parishioners within these parameters."

"Because these temporary spiritual sacrifices are for the health and well-being of the physically weak and vulnerable, it is also a response to our Lord's command to love our neighbor. Without a community response our vulnerable family, friends and neighbors would be severely impacted. Therefore, as a diocese we will continue to follow the CDC guidelines."

From the Holy Fathers

"Prayer joined to sacrifice constitutes the most powerful force in human history."
~Saint Pope John Paul II~



Wisdom of the Saints

"A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt, and must empty ourselves. Give yourselves fully to God."
~Saint Teresa of Calcutta~

For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or
Email: Rachel_harrill@yahoo.com

COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Many parishioners have asked if our parish has an on-line contribution process, and the answer is...No! We encourage parishioners to make their contributions by mailing them in to:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RC CHURCH
1024 W. Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043

Collection Information from March 22, 2020:
Regular Offering: \$3992.00



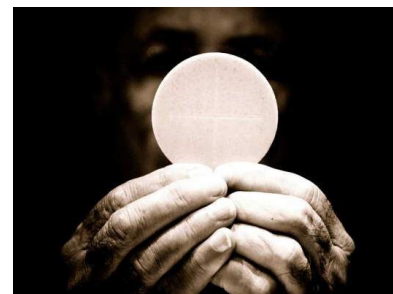
Since most are unable to attend Mass, a financial contribution can be made via the mail. Identify in

the memo line that it is for the 40 cans for 40 Days program. Make checks out to the Knights of Columbus, and send them to:

Dennis Puntel, Grand Knight
420 Nathan McDaniel Dr
Nebo, NC 25761

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unit myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



TO RECEIVE THE BULLETIN ELECTRONICALLY, email Penny Watkins, at pjwlm@gmail.com

From a Spiritual Cantic of St John of the Cross

The knowledge of the mystery hidden within Christ Jesus

Though holy doctors have uncovered many mysteries and wonders, and devout souls have understood them in this earthly condition of ours, yet the greater part still remains to be unfolded by them, and even to be understood by them.

We must then dig deeply in Christ. He is like a rich mine with many pockets containing treasures: however deep we dig we will never find their end or their limit. Indeed, in every pocket new seams of fresh riches are discovered on all sides.

For this reason the apostle Paul said of Christ: In him are hidden all the treasures of the wisdom and knowledge of God. The soul cannot enter into these treasures, nor attain them, unless it first crosses into and enters the thicket of suffering, enduring interior and exterior labors, and unless it first receives from God very many blessings in the intellect and in the senses, and has undergone long spiritual training.

All these are lesser things, disposing the soul for the lofty sanctuary of the knowledge of the mysteries of Christ: this is the highest wisdom attainable in this life.

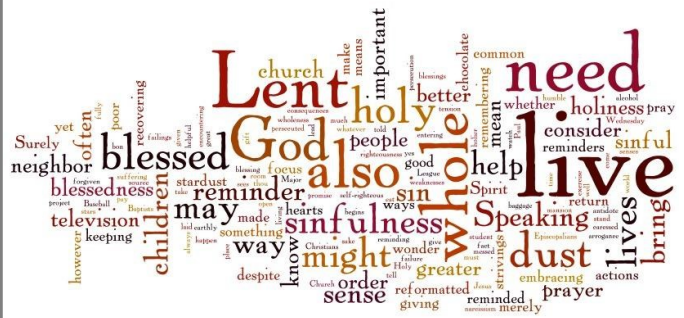
Would that men might come at last to see that it is quite impossible to reach the thicket of the riches and wisdom of God except by first entering the thicket of much suffering, in such a way that the soul finds there its consolation and desire. The soul that longs for divine wisdom chooses first, and in truth, to enter the thicket of the cross.

Saint Paul therefore urges the Ephesians not to grow weary in the midst of tribulations, but to be steadfast and rooted and grounded in love, so that they may know with all the saints the breadth, the length, the height and the depth – to know what is beyond knowledge, the love of Christ, so as to be filled with all the fullness of God.

The gate that gives entry into these riches of his wisdom is the cross; because it is a narrow gate, while many seek the joys that can be gained through it, it is given to few to desire to pass through it.



How Do I Understand the Meaning of Sacrifice?



In the days preceding Ash Wednesday, a common topic of conversation for many Catholics involved answering the big question: "What are you giving up for Lent?"

The ancient tradition for this practice of “giving something up” was a means of spending less on ourselves so that we would be able to give something more in the way of almsgiving to the poor.

Regarding giving something up for Lent, Christopher Carstens, in his book *A Devotional Journey Into the Mass*, writes: “This perennial question perpetuates an incomplete view of sacrifice. Indeed, most of us, most of the time, associate “sacrifice” with giving up, going without, destruction, deprivation, loss, pain and suffering. If we focus so absolutely on these unpleasant aspects of sacrifice, we are consequently tempted to “sacrifice” to God things that are small, those that are not essential to us, gifts that are on the heart’s periphery and disconnected from the core of our being.”

True, sacrifices hurt, some more than others. Otherwise they wouldn't be sacrifices. But there is something deeper here than just 'loss'. Carstens writes: "That something deeper is the heart of the sacrifice: the heart of man. God wants nothing else...there is one thing this all-powerful God is powerless to take. This one thing He can only have if it is freely given to Him: the undivided love of man. And (wouldn't you know it!) this is the one thing He really wants."

Look at it this way. Giving up candy, ice cream, computer games and going out to eat in restaurants for Lent isn't necessarily a bad thing. But the true essence of sacrifice is giving yourself to God.

