

THE TOMB OF
LAZARUS
AL-EIZARIYA
(BETHANY)

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come out!”

JOHN 11:43

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved.
Illustration: *Living Water*, Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch, 2019. Photo: kathryn/Adobe Stock

MARCH 29
2020

Church of the Immaculate Conception

Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward

570-325-2791 • iccjt@ptd.net • www.iccjimthorpe.org

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:
Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC Direct Phone: 800-791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sr. Meg Cole, SSJ, MS, LMFT Phone: 610-332-0442 ext. 2019

To help prevent the spread of the disease, until further notice,

Bishop Alfred Schlert has decided that

ALL PUBLIC MASSES ARE SUSPENDED

Mass intentions will be said privately by Fr. Ward.

The Rectory office is closed to visitors,

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS TIMES:

Immaculate Conception, Saturdays: 3 to 4 p.m.

St. Joseph Church, Mondays: 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. * *note change*

PRAYER TO OUR LADY, HEALTH OF THE SICK DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary,

You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, united with Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman people,
know what we need,
and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that,
as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return
after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.

He who took our suffering upon Himself,
and burdened Himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas — we who are put to the test —
and deliver us from every danger. O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Pope Francis, March 11, 2020 © Libreria Editrice Vaticana

fifthsunday
OF LENT

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass intentions will be said privately by Fr. Ward.

Sat. March 28 **Mary Agnes McElmoyle**, *bday* (Ned) / **Emil & Leo Bechtold** (Charlie Wildoner)

Sun. March 29 **James J. Zurn** (M/M Robert Carroll) / **Gloria Jean Sebelin** (Frank & Ceil Sebelin)

Mon. March 30 **Kelly Hager** (Roush Family) / **Patrick Moss** (Sarah)

Tues. March 31 **Bernie Gillespie** (Thomas & Kathleen Straubinger) /
For the Health & Safety of Those Who Are Ill, & Those Who Provide Their Care

Wed. April 1 **Betty Brown** (Brown Family) /
Betty Ohl and the Benyo/Ohl Family (Betsy Ohl-Searfoss)

Thurs. April 2 **Eugene "Kelly" Hager** (Mary & Dave Figura) / **All Parishioners, Living & Deceased**

Fri. April 3 **James Straubinger** (Thomas & Kathleen Straubinger) / **Iлона Wildoner**, birthday (Tom)

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Sat. April 4 **Millie Radocha** (DePuy Family)

Sun. April 5 **Dennis & Margaret Dugan** (Hugh Dugan) / **Moss Family** (Helen)

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE burns in Loving Memory *"Pop" James Zurn*, 8th Anniversary (From, Children, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren)

WCC Question of the Week

Lazarus received a second chance at life through Jesus. How have you experienced second chances in your own life?

FAMILY ACTIVITY: Plant seeds with your child to help him or her understand death and new life. If planting indoors, fill a plastic container with potting soil. After planting the seeds, talk with your child about watering the seeds and watching for growth. Even though the seeds will die in the soil, they will also reappear in a new form, as a new plant. Explain that the seeds are a symbol of the new life that Jesus gives.



PALM SUNDAY - In the event that public Masses with the faithful remain suspended we will have blessed Palms available on the Rectory porch along with the Sunday Bulletin on Friday afternoon, April 3. St. Joseph Church will have palms available in the Church during the day while the church is open for private prayer.

"VIRTUAL MASSES" There are many options available to "participate" in Mass. We have listed various streaming links on our website, with Bishop Schlert, or other local priests.

Please see our website for more info and links.



BULLETINS: If you would like a printed version of the bulletin, copies will be available to pick up on the Rectory porch every Friday afternoon. You can also subscribe to receive the bulletin by email with our bulletin company at ebulletin.jspaluch.com, zip code 18229, & select Immaculate Conception to "subscribe". The bulletin will be emailed to you from our bulletin company.

DONATION ENVELOPES: We are exploring options to offer parishioners ways to help contribute to the parish during the pandemic, we may be offering electronic giving with a dedicated website through help of the Diocesan resources. Until we know more on how long Masses will not be public there are a few choices: You can mail a check with one of your envelopes to the rectory office; Drop envelopes/mail through the rectory office mail slot; Hold your donation until Masses resume. We ask that you combine your donation into just one weekly envelope, there is no need to return multiple envelopes. Thank you for your understanding and support.

REMEMBERING VOCATIONS IN YOUR LENTEN DEVOTIONS ~ 5th Sunday of Lent ~ "This then is the consecrated life: ... It is a living encounter with the Lord in his people. It is a call to the faithful obedience of daily life and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a vision of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy: Jesus."⁵ Through our prayers and sacrifices for vocations, God seeks holy men and women to teach and lead His flock.

CALL TO PRAY

Set your smartphone alarm (or any alarm) to these times, then pray the indicated prayer at that hour.

9 a.m. - Prayer for those infected with the virus and all who are ill

Lord, place your healing hand on those who suffer illness. Bring them to full health and ease their anxious hearts. May our prayer and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary encourage them that they are not alone. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

12 p.m. - Prayer for health care workers and those attending to the sick

Lord, we are ennobled by those who put their lives at risk in caring for the sick. Keep them safe and embolden them when they are weary. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.



3 p.m. - Prayer for first responders and essential workers

Lord, we pray for those who run to danger to keep us safe and those who serve the common good. Embrace them with your mantle of protection and comfort the fears of their families. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

6 p.m. - Prayer for people of every nation and their leaders

Lord, the pandemic opens our eyes to see each other as brothers and sisters in one human family. We pray for people of every nation and their leaders, asking that they be inspired to seek the good of all and quell the voices of division. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

9 p.m. - Prayer for those who have died today

Lord, we grieve the passing of our sisters and brothers who have died this day. We commend them to your tender mercy, confident that nothing, not even death, will separate us from your love. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

~ Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago

RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE ~ Today's Gospel

tells us of the raising of Lazarus. In Jesus' exchange with Lazarus' sister Martha, she refers to the general resurrection of the dead on "the last day." Jesus then shifts the perspective by identifying himself as "the resurrection and the life." What does this mean? Jesus earlier had spoken of the hour "when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (John 5:25). When Jesus cries out in a loud voice—"Lazarus, come out!"—Jesus fulfills that role in the present, offering resurrection and life here and now, in a new relationship with him.

Resurrection is offered not only on the last day, and not only at our physical death, but in the mix of our present daily lives. Sometimes we are buried in tombs of suffering or of entrapment in sin. When we encounter death in its many forms, in faith we can hear Jesus, who summons us out of death and into life.

CREATE A FAMILY PRAYER SPACE AT HOME

In the coming weeks, families will be spending more time together at home. One good use of this time would be to pray together on a regular basis. This prayer time together can be enhanced by creating a place in your home dedicated to prayer. Making a place for prayer in our home can help us do what the Gospel tells us, to go into an "inner room" to pray (Matthew 6:6). Make your prayer place as quiet, uncluttered, and "desert-like" as possible. It can be the corner of a room or any unused space. Furnish your prayer place with a Bible, prayer books, cross, rosary, icons, and a candle. Encourage family members to use the prayer place for personal as well as family prayer. You can bless your place of prayer, saying:

Come, Holy God. Dwell in this place of prayer, and bless it with your peace and presence.

Bless all who seek you here.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

One idea for prayer together is to find a resource with the prayers and reading for Sunday Mass and pray those together. You can find the readings online at www.usccb.org. © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Dreams For Tomorrow: Trinh dreams of becoming a doctor. "I want to be a doctor to help poor patients," says Trinh. "When my father is in pain, I want to cure him." She knows that if she wants to achieve her dream, she'll need to attend university. Trinh's parents are ready to help her get there. "Trinh will be different than me," her mother, Tien, says. "I want her to be fully educated and not drop out of school. It'll be hard for us at home—but I'm prepared to work to make Trinh's dreams come true."

Maria Ana also wants to help people; she wants to be a nurse. To do this, she will need more education and training beyond the opportunities available in her community. She's already preparing. Several times a week, she travels two hours to the nearest city where she earns money cleaning homes. She is also very careful to save money and spend it only on what's necessary. Maria Ana feels called to help people be healthy, especially the children she sees in her community who suffer from malnutrition and lack of proper hygiene.

And Yvone? She wants to be a hairdresser so that she can earn money to help her family. She dreams of one day being able to buy a car and give rides to her family, so they won't have to walk far distances.

Through CRS, we're helping all three girls—and their families—achieve their dreams.

