



St. Joseph Marelló Parísh
at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent

PASTOR'S CORNER



DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Last week, water was featured in some way in all three readings. This week it is themes related to blindness. Again this week, as with last week, we are presented with a masterful and beautifully crafted story of this amazing healing event. Those who think they understand the reason this man is blind are asked to look at things differently. It is never easy to engage in a new outlook, or to change the way we respond to a given situation in a new way, a way we are not accustomed to. Jesus moves through these situations with determination and faith that God can do all things. He knows that God, his loving father, is indeed working through him! Samuel is challenged to see as God sees. Man sees only the exterior, but God sees into the heart. Paul reminds the Ephesians that once we "lived in darkness. but now you are light in the Lord!" There are different ways to see things. There are certainly different points of view. We are encouraged by these scriptures to not be distracted by outward appearances but to focus on the heart. Our spiritual sight is called upon to take precedence over what merely our eyes perceive. Seeing in this way may often require that we change the way we reconcile what we "know" to be true. Truly seeing requires us to change attitudes that may have been long held in our lives. God's grace urges us to be open to these moment of change. His love enables us to do that and it reflects not only the constant nature of God's love for every person but also God's desire to accompany us on the journey of life. Our attitudes and opinions change, evolve, and respond to the continual movement to being and seeing and thinking more like God. When we see God's response through Jesus, which is always one of love and healing, we too become more likely to see differently and respond with thanksgiving to God for enabling our sight to advance and be even clearer when we stay close to the light, and the actions of the anointed one of God.

Fr. Elston

CHALLENGING TIMES

Most of us have probably been following the development of the corona virus over the past few weeks. Now, we find ourselves at the center of a whole new way of going about living our lives to insure the safety and well being of all. Our parishes, St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph Mareello are complying with the instructions provided by the Diocese and our Bishop during this important time. Those instructions are listed in the letter from our Bishop included in this bulletin. You can also find times for the celebration of the Mass on television or on the internet. I know it is certainly not the same but hopefully, abiding by these guidelines and temporary changes, we can return to normal sooner, when indeed it is safe for all. Fr. Jackson and I will be celebrating private masses each day, satisfying the Mass intentions you see in our weekly bulletin. We will be evaluating these measures as we go along and new information comes from the government and our Diocese. Your patience and understanding is so very much appreciated and contributes greatly to the safety of all. It is my hope and prayer that if these directives are followed and we respond to the sacrifices made by all people, this will begin to resolve sooner than later. We always rise to the occasion through the grace of God and the kindness and generosity of many people! We will do the same this time! Our Pastoral Center will remain closed during this period. Our offices in both parishes will remain OPEN, but you are asked to keep face-to-face visits to a minimum and call the office or e mail if possible.

As a reminder, the contact information for the parish is as follows:

Phone: 570-654-6902

E-Mail: office@sjmparish.org

Weekend Mass will be celebrated by either Father Elston or Father Jackson and will be broadcast through video on our social media and website platforms, including Facebook and YouTube. There will be more information on this within our bulletin. Furthermore, we will have a daily posting on both YouTube and our Facebook page with a message, scripture reading, and brief reflection with updates from Father Elston.

The weekly bulletin will continue to be printed and be made available online or as a physical copy in the Church.

Please keep in mind that these policies, office hours, and open church hours are subject to change rapidly, as is the nature with these uncertain times. We will continue to update our website and social media accounts frequently. Furthermore, we will continue to print and publish our weekly bulletin as we normally do. Even though we are in the midst of a troubling and unprecedented period, we can, and will, all get through this together!

May God bless you and your families both now, and always!

PARISH UPDATES

At this time, we ask you to follow the parish Facebook page, St Joseph Mareello Parish Activities, for current updates on events scheduled for our parish. Furthermore, our parish website found at sjmparish.org will also be regularly updated with important news and links to important videos and media at this time.

We realize that many of you may find difficulty in navigating through an increasingly digital world. We encourage you to spread the word on any updates you may see. Call your family, friends, and neighbors and make sure they are as aware as possible of what is happening here in our parish. If you are uncomfortable with technology or need some help, don't be afraid to ask! Reach out to family and friends who might have access to Facebook or YouTube, which we will be utilizing in the coming weeks.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARISH SOCIETIES

A check in the amount of \$5000.00 was recently presented to Fr. Elston, the fruits of the efforts of our combined societies for the February Night at the Races. A big thanks to all Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, Altar & Rosary and Columbiette members that made the evening a great success. It's another example of the synergy that can be developed when all societies join together in a common cause. We hope to see everyone on Feb 6th, 2021!

ROAD TO RESURRECTION CANCELLED

Due to the novel coronavirus outbreak, the remaining Masses and Evening Prayer services on the Road to Resurrection have been cancelled. We pray for the safety and health of all of our faithful in the deanery as we navigate through difficult times. Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding.

WEEKEND MASS BROADCASTS

As mentioned earlier in the bulletin, we will broadcast a weekend Mass celebrated by either Father Elston or Father Jackson every weekend. Mass will be available on YouTube at the following page. Furthermore, the video will be made available on the parishes Facebook page at facebook.com/SJMParishActivities, or at our webpage, sjmparish.org. At this point, the plan is to have the Mass posted to these locations at 4pm on Saturday. The Mass will remain viewable after this time. To participate, simply navigate to one of the above pages, locate the video, and press play. These Masses will be filmed with our priests in attempt to adapt to these changes yet maintain our own unique parish life.

EWTN MASS SCHEDULE

As mentioned in the letter from the Bishop, Mass will be broadcast on EWTN at the following times. Daily Mass will be broadcast daily Mass from 12:10pm, 3:30pm, and 7:00pm. Furthermore, if you would like to watch weekend Mass from the Cathedral, it will be broadcast at 4:00pm on Saturdays, with a repeated broadcast at 10:00am on Sunday morning.

MASS INTENTIONS

During this time period while Masses are suspended, both Father Elston and Father Jackson will be saying Mass in private every day. At this time, any Mass intentions that have been offered through the 2020 Mass book will be said by one of them as they are scheduled. We will not be skipping any Masses; all scheduled intentions will be offered during these private Masses. We assure you that all Masses will still be offered in as normal a method as possible. Please note that the broadcast weekend Mass beginning on Saturday will not feature the written intention of the day and will be offered for "All Parishioners Living and Deceased." Even so, the weekend Mass intentions will still be said privately in addition to the taped service. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation at this time.

St. Joseph Marelló Parish
Memorial Candle
 March 2020
Blessed Virgin Mary
In memory of
 Rosanne Stella by Husband

St. Joseph Marelló Parish

Event Cancellations

These events have all been cancelled or postponed as of Noon on Wednesday, March 18, which was the time that the bulletin was submitted.

Tuesday, March 24—Evening Vespers

Postponed until further notice

Saturday, March 28—HNS Smoker at SJM

Cancelled

From the HNS - In alignment with the recent Diocesan and state health recommendations in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Holy Name Society is cancelling the upcoming Smoker that was scheduled for 3/28/2020. The health and well-being of our parishioners and friends must be at the forefront of all decisions. We are extremely grateful for the support we receive from our parishioners, guests and sponsors and hope to see all of you in 2021.

Monday, March 30—Easter Fellowship Party

Cancelled

Friday, April 3—Knights Pizza Sale

Cancelled

All Parish Society meetings are suspended unless otherwise noted. Religious Education classes are also cancelled until further notice. Senior choir practice is cancelled until a further update. Finally, "The Light is on for You" confessions, Stations of the Cross, and all other services are cancelled unless otherwise stated.

St. Joseph Marelló Columbiettes

Easter Flower Fundraiser

Thank you to all who supported our Easter Flower fundraising event! We will be publishing information as soon as possible regarding how flowers will be made available for pickup. As always, check the bulletin for more information. Also, you can contact Donna Timko at 570-262-9391 with questions regarding pickup.



SAVE YOUR REDNER'S TAPES

St. Joseph Marelló Parish is participating in the Redner's Save-A-Tape program. We ask that you save any receipts you may have from shopping at Redner's Warehouse Markets and submit them to us in full so we can give them to Redner's stores for a 1% rebate on the total spent as a fundraiser. Thank you!

March 16, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Effective immediately, and until further notice, I have suspended the celebration of Masses open to the public and all public gatherings in all diocesan parishes, worship sites, college campuses, chapels and health care facilities in the eleven counties of the Diocese of Scranton.

Churches of the Diocese will remain open daily for individual private prayer. The timeframe for each parish is to be determined by its pastor or parish life coordinator. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time remains in effect.

Scheduled sacramental celebrations such as weddings, baptisms or funerals will be permitted, but attendance will be limited to immediate family members and follow any guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation will be available, when requested individually, by the faithful in cases of serious need.

It deeply saddens me to take this temporary action, knowing the depth of your faith and your desire to celebrate the Holy Eucharist on a regular basis. In light of continued concerns surrounding COVID-19, and upon the advice of medical experts, it is clear that we, as a faith community, must do our part in order to help slow the spread of this virus.

The number of faithful souls who filled our churches this past weekend, even with the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass, was deeply consoling to me. As you always have, so many of you are turning to your faith as the surest place where we will find God's peace, consolation and hope.

Unfortunately, the presence of such great numbers of worshippers in our churches is not serving our efforts to help mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus. In an effort to prevent overwhelming our hospitals and health care facilities, national, state and local leaders have urged people to avoid large gatherings of people and keep appropriate social distancing from one another.

As your bishop, in addition to the care of souls, the safety and health of all of our faithful parishioners, friends and those we welcome through our outreach and service, is of utmost importance to me. As such, the decision that I have announced, while difficult, is the best way for us to work together to serve the common good of all, both in our parishes and in our communities.

During these challenging times, it is also crucial that we not forget who we are as Christians. May we continue to offer, in whatever way we can, care and concern for those who are most vulnerable, including the poor, our senior citizens and those who are ill. I also urge those who can do so to maintain support for your parishes during these difficult days in order to sustain the ministries and outreach services for parishioners and those most in need.

Despite the suspension of public Masses, a private Mass will be celebrated daily in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, and made available on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. On weekdays, the Mass will be broadcast at 12:10 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. On weekends, the Saturday Vigil Mass will be broadcast at 4:00 p.m. and rebroadcast on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. The Masses will also be streamed on the Diocese of Scranton's website (www.dioceseofscranton.org), made available on the Diocese of Scranton's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and will be accessible on the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube channel.

Additional resources for individual parishioners to deepen their faith during Lent are also available on the Diocese of Scranton's website.

During this sacred season of Lent, we are being asked to sacrifice more than ever before – particularly with the loss of cherished religious practices, most especially the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. May we do so mindful of the selfless sacrifice of Jesus and for the sake of our brothers and sisters who are most vulnerable and in need of our help.

The Diocese of Scranton continues to monitor the rapidly evolving health situation regarding the coronavirus. We are constantly monitoring directives from national, state and local officials. This policy will be reassessed on a regular basis, in addition to the plans for Holy Week and Easter.

God bless you and keep each of you in His care. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



at

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

237 William Street • Pittston, PA 18640

570.654.6902 • 570.655.5448 fax

sjmparish.org • office@sjmparish.org

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Tuesday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday: Closed

MASS SCHEDULE - SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm • Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am

Monday-Friday: 11:30 am • First Saturday: 8:00 am

Holy Days of Obligation: *vigil 5:30pm* • 11:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday-Friday: Before 11:30 Mass when priest is available

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & DEVOTIONS

First Friday of the Month Eucharistic Adoration: 12-1pm

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Tuesdays after daily Mass

St. Joseph & St. Joseph Marella: Wednesdays after daily Mass

Sacred Heart of Jesus: After daily Mass on the First Friday of the month

Immaculate Heart of Mary: After 8am mass on the First Saturday of the Month

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the parish office at least one month prior to your desired date of Baptism. Parish membership and a preparation class for the parents and godparents are required.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact the parish office at least six months before the desired wedding date. Wedding dates will not be set until the first interview with the parish priest is completed.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

If you or a family member are sick or hospitalized and desire to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please call the rectory and leave the person's information. Father will visit as soon as possible.

CLERGY AND STAFF

Fr. Joseph Elston, Pastor | pastor@sjmparish.org

Rev. Jackson Pinhero, OSJ, Assistant Pastor

Deacon Santo Agolino, Permanent Deacon | deacon@sjmparish.org

Christine Silinskie, Parish Secretary | office@sjmparish.org

Raphael Micca, Director of Music & Organist

Alicia Hintze, Director of Religious Education | ccd@sjmparish.org

Steve Wallo, Youth Ministry | stevewallo@stjohnspittston.com

Brandon Jopling, Sacristan

For information about or to book the Parish Hall, please contact Christine Silinskie at 570-239-4070 or parishcenter@sjmparish.org

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

4:00pm - Joseph Salatino by daughter Kristi, son-in-law Don, and wife, Marguerite

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

8:00 am - For all parishioners living and deceased and Ridolfi Brothers by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ridolfi

10:30am - In Celebration of the Annunciation by the San Cataldo Society

MONDAY, MARCH 23

11:30 am - Joseph McGill by the Loughlin Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

11:30am - Michael A. Kirkpatrick by Carly Jopling

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

11:30am - Vera Ridolfi by Frank Ridolfi

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

11:30am - Edward D'Angelo by Wife

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

11:30am - Angeline Lispi (*Anniversary*) by Children

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

4:00pm - Sen. Ray Musto by Wife and Children

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

8:00 am - For all parishioners living and deceased and Angie Hopkins by Judi Pasternak

10:30am - Deceased Members of the Sam and Carmella Chairge Family by Family

PARISH CALENDAR

- April 4-5 | Palm Sunday Weekend
- April 12 | Easter Sunday

As mentioned throughout this bulletin, all special events in the parish are cancelled until further notice. As more information is made available to us, we will update the calendar with any new developments or dates for upcoming events.

PARISH WISH LIST

The following items are currently on our Parish Wish List.

- Permanent Hymnal Donations

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