

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER + **April 26, 2020**

READINGS: Acts 2:14, 22-33 +1 Peter 1:17-21 +Luke 24:13-35

Dear Parishioner...Around & About Ste. Rose,

40th Anniversary Celebration

The 40th Anniversary of Ordination celebration for Fr. Bill has been postponed until May of 2021. With the advent of COVID 19, it is important to be assured of a safe environment free of fear from spreading the virus. It is also more in keeping with the understanding that many may need to re-adjust their financial priorities. With so much uncertainty, it is best to postpone this celebration. More details will be made known in future bulletin announcements.

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal

Amid this COVID 19 pandemic, the Diocese is sponsoring this annual charitable campaign. As of April 7th, Ste. Rose parishioners have already contributed \$30,752. If you are able to respond to this year's campaign, please log onto www.diospringfield.org and click on the 150th Anniversary "tab" to make your contribution; or you can respond by using the ACA materials which you received through the USPS. Thank you!

Ste Rose Sacrificial Giving for Sunday, April 19th

The Sunday Offering totaled \$9,353.00. Your continued support of the parish is so appreciated especially during the COVID 19 pandemic when we are still unable to publicly celebrate The Eucharist. Sunday Mass will continue to be recorded from Ste. Rose parish church every week until public Masses are allowed. These recordings can be found on our website: www.sterose.org; our "Friends" on Facebook, and on You Tube by "searching: Ste Rose de Lima."

The Rites of Christian Burial

In compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, only private funeral homes services are permitted. A funeral home service may be attended by no more than 10 persons. A graveside service may be attended by no more than 10 persons. Both services must keep "social distancing" as a standard. A "Memorial Service of Remembrance" will be planned by Ste. Rose de Lima Parish for our members who

died during this pandemic without the benefit of a Liturgy of Christian Burial when it's safe to do so.

School closure for the remainder of the school year

By now, I am sure that we have all learned of Governor Baker's decision to close all schools throughout the Commonwealth until a reopening, hopefully, in September. As it was reported it does not mean that the children are going to begin an early vacation. SJA School, like all other schools, will continue to reach out to all students through the end of the academic year. The faculty and staff of SJA have continued to instruct "our" students since the suspension of classes. Instructing children through "whatever means works" places additional responsibility on SJA School to maintain a regular contact with our students. It also places additional responsibilities on parents to create "a home schooling" environment. While classroom experience can never be replicated, through sacrifice and planning, our students will not have had a "lost year." When go back to work restrictions are lifted, there will be an additional challenge for parents to work and assist in the education, rearing, protection, and supervision of their children. Schools have traditionally provided a full-day of in-school learning thereby enabling parents to work knowing that their children were in a safe environment throughout the school day hours. While these days of isolation are demanding on each of us in ways that were unforeseen, the health and well-being of every person is of paramount importance. Let us pray for each other during these unprecedented days that peace and love will prevail in each of our lives and in our homes.

And finally,

Throughout these days of social distancing and isolation, it would not be uncommon for any of us to feel alone, lonely, and somewhat depressed particularly if some already are living by themselves. With the technology that is available we need to keep in touch with those we love. A phone call, perhaps "facetime" emails, texting, and tweeting can be vehicles by which we stay in constant communication with those we love and care deeply about. Offering our services to those who are most vulnerable to COVID 19 by doing some grocery shopping or assisting in other ways, such as making meals for those who are unable to fend for themselves. Individually, there are "quiet times" when prayer can bring solace and peace. There are great opportunities for reading and time for reflection. As the weather improves there will be opportunities to go outside for a walk and other forms of exercise. Make every attempt to avoid the temptation of simply sitting in front of the television for hours

on end – such an attractive option with “binge-watching” of your favorite series while snacking on “junk foods.”

As for myself, I continue to monitor all telephone calls and emails. I am keeping a regular schedule in order to maintain good health and well-being – including a regular exercise routine in the gym I created in the rectory basement 15 years ago. I am not as busy as “normal” but busy enough that the days go by quickly. I check on my Mother every day and will assist her while maintaining the proper procedures to keep her safe – she is now 89 years old! My Uncle Bob is also in need of assistance. He is 92 years old and living alone. I am cooking, cleaning, shopping, doing laundry and bedding and towels. I am going to the Pastoral Center to keep up with the USPS and finances and communicating with the Business Office of SJA School. I am counting and depositing your very generous contributions to the parish. I have been presiding at funeral home services as well as graveside services for those recent deaths in the parish and our community while maintaining social distancing. With a team of a few parishioners, I am celebrating Sunday Mass on Thursday evenings for recording. I thank you for your thoughts and prayers throughout the years but especially now during these unprecedented times. We will get through this together by praying for each other and practicing the new social guidelines of staying home and not spreading COVID 19.

May God bless you and your families and keep us all safe.

Fr. Bill