

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Readings for the week of March 22, 2020

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

Are you a new parishioner or visiting for the first time?

Welcome! Please introduce yourself to one of the priests. We invite you to become an active participant of our parish community and welcome you. Please take a census envelope from the racks at each exit or contact the Parish Office.

OUR MISSION "We are a community of Catholics who draw our strength from the celebration of the Eucharist, so that Christ may live in us and we may express the values He taught by our loving service to family, neighbor and society."

Stay connected with your parish family!

We are so glad you are here with us at Holy Cross! We invite you to connect with our community. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to get the latest news, photos and stories or subscribe to our weekly brief delivered right to your inbox.

Visit www.holycrossdewitt.org/subscribe to see more.



Mass Times

Daily Mass with

Bishop Lucia can be viewed on

youtube.com/syrdio

Upcoming Events:

Please check the Holy Cross Web site holycrossdewitt.org for up to date Information.



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 22nd - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Victims of Human Trafficking/ Joyce A. Kotch

Richard Purcell/ Vincent Mahar

Ada Lou Costello/ Al & Joann Paparo

Monday, March 23rd

People of Holy Cross

9:00 AM –3:00PM Private Prayer & Devotion - Church

Tuesday, March 24th

Tina Sindoni/ Family

9:00 AM –3:00PM Private Prayer & Devotion - Church

Wednesday, March 25th

Lucretia “Lucy” Zazzara/ Rachel Chait,

Robert & Linda Davis

9:00 AM –3:00PM Private Prayer & Devotion - Church

7:00 - 8:00PM Adoration and Confession

Thursday, March 26th

David Woodmansee/ Brenda Casinella

9:00 AM –3:00PM Private Prayer & Devotion - Church

Friday, March 27th

Jason Dann/ Joan Beeler

9:00 AM –3:00PM Private Prayer & Devotion - Church

Saturday, March 28th

Carol Russell/ Family

Marjorie Montanaro/ Loguidice Family

12:00 – 2:00PM Private Prayer & Devotion - Church

Sunday, March 29th – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Stanley Germain/ Ed & Lola Gualtieri

Aungier & McManus Families/ Family

Betty Galletta/ John Visco

Due to the suspension of all Public Masses. The weekday and weekend Mass Intentions will be said on the day intended at a Private Mass. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please know of our prayers for each and everyone of you during this difficult time.

**This weekend’s 2nd collection is:
Catholic Relief Services**

PLANNED GIVING FOR OUR PARISH

Please consider our parish through:

- Your Will or Trust
- Retirement Assets
- Life Insurance Policies

A Life Income Gift which will provide you with payments for life and ultimately will benefit our parish.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Credit card and electronic donations are now possible through the Holy Cross website: www.holycrossdewitt.org/give

**March 22nd, 2020
4th Sunday of Lent**

Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man “sees” as someone very special. The



Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God’s kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God’s children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

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YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

\$19,704.88 Average weekly need

\$11,259.00 Collection of March 15

(\$ 8,445.88) Deficit

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT
OF YOUR PARISH!**



PRAYER REQUESTS

Shannon Adams, Diana Arnold, Frank Blizzard, Leana Mae Bonnell, David Carr, Vince Cichello, Armand Cincotta, Linda Cote', Phil Gaither, Ricco Gauf, Katie Glisson, Richard Griffin, Yvonne Grocott, Virginia Grosso, Mason Hallenbeck, Adriana Hampel, Daniel C. Healy, Elaine Hill, Macey Horbauch, Susan Keller, Jane Koszulka, Kathy Kotz, John Laura, Rory Lennon, Penny Locke, Edward Loftus, Elaine Lostumbo, Abrielle Lynch, Dominick M., Austin & Tres Mahan, Mary McArdle, Noah McNeil, Gail Moloney, Angela Martin, Mary Mayle, Monica Miranda, Tracey Montague, Faith Muller, Al Paparo, Deanna Peters, Wayne Queror, Mona Rawles, Micah Schwiezer, Brian Semerao, Dawn Simmonds, Kay Simon, Joseph Smith, Stephen Smith, Rita Smookler, Eleanor Sullivan, Shelly Tortora, Steve Wafer, and Kristin Woodmansee.

If you would like us to add someone to this list, we ask that only family members call the office or email Peg@holycrossdewitt.org. We will keep them on for three months unless you notify us otherwise. Thank you.

Activities For Lent

Lenten Reflections

Walk with the Lord daily this Lent. Sign up at <https://formed.org/daily> to receive daily reflections directly to your inbox. Be inspired & renewed each morning with clips from Catholic authors, speakers, movies, talks, & more. FORMED Daily has turned into LENTEN REFLECTIONS on Ash Wednesday.

Catholic Media - Augustine Institute

FORMED

Watch: Ready Reasons: Does John Teach Assurance of Salvation?

Read: Mary in the Redemption

Watch: Francis: The People's Pope

Listen: Mary, the Indispensable Mother of God - Tim Staples (Annunciation 3/25)

Watch: Forgiveness, the Blessings of Confession (Brother Francis - Children of all ages)

Catholic Media Kiosk

CD: "The Lamb's Supper"

Based on his best-selling book, Dr. Scott Hahn reveals the early Christians' key to understanding the Mass: the Book of Revelation. With its bizarre imagery, mystic visions of Heaven, and end-times prophecies, it mirrors the sacrifice and celebration of the Holy Eucharist. See the Mass with new eyes!

Comment: "Excellent! It is hard to express the spiritual impact this CD has had on me. I don't believe I will ever celebrate the Eucharist the same way again!" ~ Floy - Manchester, KY

A Family Perspective:



Failure to forgive blinds us to another's goodness. Lent provides an opportunity to wash away our blind-spots in the pool of forgiveness. Listen to Jesus in today's gospel: "Go wash and see."

OUR RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

**ALL PUBLIC GATHERINGS FOR MASS,
PRAYER, FAITH FORMATION, AND CERTAIN
PARISH ACTIVITIES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**

NOVENA PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and world-wide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Bishop Lucia also asks that you pray the Novena above for 9 days. The Novena can then be restarted.





HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS

Happening in Second Grade

Our 2nd graders have been learning about Ash Wednesday, Lent and the parts of the Mass during February and early March. Many of them are preparing for their First Communion later this spring. They will also help with the readings and gifts at our school Mass later in May. In addition, they have been learning about different kinds of communities in Social Studies, and we will prepare a community diorama to show their learning.



Substitute Teachers & Nurses Needed

Holy Cross School is looking for substitute Nurses and Teachers. We are interested in Registered Nurses who are up to date on all certifications. All individuals must be willing to be Virtus Trained within the Diocese. Please e-mail your resume to Martha O'Leary at moleary@syrdiocese.org.

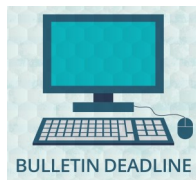
HOPE Appeal Update

Recently we received from the Diocese of Syracuse the 2019 HOPE Appeal Parish Sharing check in the amount of \$34,222.70. Thank you so very much for all your generous gifts during the 2019 campaign. Since we made and surpassed our goal, Holy Cross received back 50% of the overage.



Upcoming Bulletin Deadline Changes

- The deadline for the bulletin of April 5th (Palm Sunday) will be **Wednesday, March 25th at 9am.**
- The deadline for the bulletin of April 12th (Easter Sunday) will be **Wednesday, April 1st at 9am.**



All notices received after these deadlines will be published in the following bulletin. Thank you!

Be sure to check the bulletin board, located by the main entrance, for more information about upcoming events in our area.

Important Information

Out of concern for public health & following directives and recommendations from the Diocese of Syracuse, Department of Health, and CDC, **ALL** public gatherings (including Mass & Stations of the Cross) & parish activities and events at Holy Cross are **cancelled** until further notice.

PRIVATE PRAYER AND DEVOTION

The main church will be **open** from Monday-Saturday, 9 AM - 3 PM and on Sunday from 12 PM - 2 PM for private prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available Wednesday evening from 7 PM - 8 PM. Please maintain appropriate social distancing if praying in the church.

ONLINE RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATION

We have online resources and communications available to our parish community to keep you connected and informed during this tumultuous time. Subscribe to our weekly **Youth & Families** newsletter for formation and family resources to encourage you and your youth during isolation, and special editions of our weekly **Bulletin Brief** newsletter with content and resources for prayer, growth, and devotion during this time. **[Sign up today to stay informed during these strange days!](#)**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00 - 8:00pm on Wednesdays.



We begin the hour in church with Adoration & will conclude with Solemn Benediction.
Confessions on Wednesday Evenings

Sacrament of Reconciliation is being offered every **Wednesday between 7 & 8pm.** The peace of mind and soul which this sacrament imparts to us is one for which there is no substitute. Come enjoy the quietness of our Church and the forgiveness of our Savior.

2019 Tax Contribution Statements

If you wish to have a tax statement sent to your home, please fill out the form below. You may put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the office. You may also email the information to Peg@holycrossdewitt.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE FROM BISHOP LUCIA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
March 16, 2020

Dear Diocesan Family,

Peace be with you! I write to you at this time of national and worldwide emergency to encourage you in your own personal prayer, fasting, and charitable works as we enter more deeply into our Lenten journey in ways we never expected.

Today, I announce that due to the Coronavirus and its relentless spread and effect on the most vulnerable of our society, **all public gatherings for Mass, prayer, Faith Formation, and certain parish activities (see list) are suspended effective immediately.** It is my hope and prayer that I will be able to lift this suspension in time for Holy Week and Easter, but that will have to be a decision for a later date. Correspondingly, during this time period the faithful are dispensed from their Sunday obligation to participate in Holy Mass. This decision is not an easy one. For 57 years of my own life, Sunday Mass and Daily Mass during Lent have been a staple for me. Never did I think or ever imagine I would have to ask people not to gather for the Holy Eucharist. Nonetheless, I recognize my own obligation to ensure the health of the faithful, including our clergy, both spiritually and physically. By implementing effective social distancing measures, the Diocese of Syracuse supports the common good of all citizens and prioritizes the dignity of every human life, especially those most susceptible to the virus at this time.

I know that some of the Catholic faithful will be saddened and even upset by the decision to cancel Masses. This decision is based on the recommendations from both local and national emergency management and public health agencies and the immediate need to halt the spread of the Coronavirus. My hope is that this restriction of the public celebration of the Mass will be for a very limited period. For the time being, it is necessary to keep in mind the common good of public health and the importance of doing our part in preventing the spread of the coronavirus by avoiding large gatherings (which operative number according to the Center for Disease Control is 50). My Daily Mass will be livestreamed on the Internet and we are looking to provide also the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, and a Lenten Retreat by such means.

As Catholics, caring for our spiritual and sacramental lives is paramount. Therefore, priests (physical health and age permitting) are available for sacramental emergencies and pastoral appointments while maintaining the necessary public health precautions. At the pastor's discretion, churches may remain open for personal prayer, but public devotions such as the Stations of the Cross or other prayer services should be suspended to avoid large gatherings. Instead, I encourage you to make these devotions in private; the Diocesan website will provide resources to facilitate such prayer. If a parish already has regularly scheduled or perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, it should take place in a larger space (for example, the main church instead of a chapel) where sufficient social distancing (the CDC recommends at least 6 feet) is possible. If a church is open, pastors are to ensure that there is a thorough daily cleaning of all surfaces and that social distancing is maintained.

A particular concern are weddings and funerals. These may proceed but attendance should be limited to immediate family. Likewise, baptisms already scheduled may proceed but attendance should likewise be limited and fresh water be used for each baptism. Of course, in the case of emergency, baptism should always be conferred. Please also maintain social distancing for these events as described in the above paragraph. The individual reception of the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) may continue to be offered, but we have asked priests to move to a larger room/space for greater distance between priest and penitent and the use of a screen to block airflow between priest and penitent.

In pastoral care of the sick, please assist the priests in their effort to follow all protocols recommended by health professionals. In the event that a priest is asked to anoint someone with the coronavirus, the Code of Canon Law permits the use of an instrument (CIC 1000 §2), for example, a cotton swab. In such case, the used instrument should not come in contact again with the oil stock and should be disposed of in a reverent manner. In case of necessity, a single anointing on the forehead or on any other part of the body with the entire sacramental form ("Through this holy anointing ... May the Lord who frees you from sin ...") suffices (CIC 1000 § 1; PCS, 23). With the temporary suspension of Sunday Mass, the public celebration of the RCIA scrutinies are also suspended. The Office of Worship will provide further guidance and any adaptations for the Easter celebration of the Sacraments will be addressed in future correspondence.

With public masses being cancelled, there will likely be financial and operational impacts to your parish. Parishioners can help their parish out by mailing their offering or by online contributions. I have also decided to postpone the start of the Annual Hope Appeal until we have a better grasp of the economic impact that this national emergency will have on the families of our diocese.

At the pastor's discretion, parish offices may remain open with essential staff. If your parish offices are open, be assured that regular cleaning of the office space will occur and appropriate social distancing should be observed.

Many people's lives are being disrupted by the Coronavirus and our attempts to stop its rapid spread. In this season of Lent, let us increase our prayers, fasting and charitable works, so that God's great compassion and love may be a source of hope and consolation for all. Please check in on your neighbor, especially the elderly and those who may be isolated in any way.

Please check our diocesan website for updates & further guidance. Let us keep each other - and all those impacted - in prayer during this time. Know I will remember you at Mass and in my daily prayer.

May God watch over & bless each member of our Diocesan Family!

In Christ our Hope,



Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia
Bishop of Syracuse

Looking for a way to put your Faith in Action?

For more information or to volunteer, contact Beth Schafer: 315-416-4576 or beth@holycrossdewitt.org

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” Jesus, John 14:27

The Spiritual Works of Mercy & the Coronavirus: What would Jesus do? The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotional & spiritual needs: to pray, instruct, advise, console, comfort, forgive & bear wrongs patiently. The current situation gives us plenty of opportunity to practice those acts of compassion. Faith Formation classes have been cancelled. Our food drive is postponed at this time.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Are you homebound or in need of help? Our NHN group is willing to assist you by checking on you by telephone, or running an errand for you if you are homebound. Call Beth (315) 416-4576 or email Diane: helpingneighbors@holycrossdewitt.org

Please adopt these tactics as a way of protecting others who may be more vulnerable-even if you are not concerned about the risk to yourself.

- Have compassion for those most at risk.
- Don’t take what you don’t need-hoarding worsens the situation and impacts the most vulnerable.
- Leave the masks to others-our health care workers are desperately low.
- Advocate for the vulnerable and targeted.
- Check in on vulnerable neighbors and offer to help with specific tasks.
- Thank those who are protecting us: health care workers, police, firefighters. Be gentle and kind with them.
- Pray for all those affected by the crisis.

All Faith in Action activities during the month of March are cancelled. Check here for updates on our April activities.

Men’s Shelter Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, March 29th Cancelled Contact Carolyn Smith: cjsmith5255@gmail.com

Earth Day Litter Clean Up: Saturday, April 25th
Samaritan Center Dinner: Sunday April 26th, 12:30-3pm-Cancelled

SACRAMENTS

Baptism ~ Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements

Classes required for 1st child’s Baptism

†To request either the **Anointing of the Sick** or **Communion to the Sick** please call the Parish Office.†

Marriage ~ Please make an appointment with a priest at least 6 months prior to wedding

Penance ~ Wednesday, 7-8PM
 Saturday, 3:00PM

HOLY CROSS PARISH

4112 E. Genesee St., DeWitt, NY 13214

Church Office – Phone: 315 446-0473, FAX: 315 446-7608

Website: holycrossdewitt.org ■ E-Mail: info@holycrossdewitt.org

Holy Cross Parish Staff ~ Name, Title and Phone Extension

- Rev. John J. Kurgan, Pastor, ext. 15
- Rev. Matthew E. Rawson, Parochial Vicar, ext. 36
- Rev. Charles S. Vavonese, Weekend Homilist
- Deacon Dare Dutter, ext. 16
- Ernest J. Camerota, Director of Music, ext. 38
- Brette Cooper, Maintenance
- Josh Corcoran, Music Sunday 5pm Mass
- Patty Kirwan, Administrative Assistant ext. 10
- Dan Littlepage, Director of Technology, ext. 33
- Leigh C. Marquis, Director of Finance & Human Resources, ext. 24
- Maureen McManus, Sacristan
- Stephen Nepil, Dir. Faith Formation 7-12 & Dir. Youth Ministry ext. 19
- Peg Olson, Office Manager & Administrative Assistant, ext. 22
- Beth Schafer, Director of Faith in Action Ministry, ext. 13
- Julie Sheridan, Dir. Faith Formation 1-6 & Evangelization, ext. 12
- Matt Stano, Maintenance

PARISH INFORMATION

- **Please notify the Parish Office** when a parishioner or family member is confined to home, hospitalized, or entering a nursing home. Hospitals no longer notify us of a patient’s admittance. Also, please notify us with change of: address, phone number or email.
- Bulletin items need to be in the parish office no later than Monday at 9am for the upcoming weekend. (holiday deadlines will change)
- E-mail preferred; please send to: peg@holycrossdewitt.org
- Hearing impaired ear phones are available in the Robing Room in the front lobby.
- Pregnant and Need Help? Please call Catholic Charities 424-1800

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

4200 E. Genesee St., DeWitt, NY 13214

School Office – Phone: 315 446-4890, FAX: 315 446-4799

Website: hcschooldewitt.org

E-Mail: moleary@syrdiocese.org

Staff ~ Name and Title

- Martha O’Leary, School Principal
- Joanne Markert - Administrative Assistant, Nina Walters - Nurse



HOLY CROSS

STEWARDSHIP IN FAITH

Volume XI

Sunday

March 22, 2020

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS CONTINUE

In light of everything that is taking place in our community and beyond we are truly humbled by the continued response to our Parish Stewardship Appeal. Over 200 households have now responded to our efforts, and the average offertory gift is close to \$43 per week. Once again, Father John and the parish committee extend a sincere thank you to these families for their commitment and sacrifice to Holy Cross.

We recognize that these are unprecedented times and understandably there is much uncertainty and anxiety for many. However, because many parishioners are following the progress of our stewardship program, we will continue to provide periodic updates through the bulletin. Also, for those who may be returning home early from time away, all of our stewardship materials are available at the church entrances.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENT

In addition to our treasure, giving of our time and talent are also key components of stewardship as well. Giving of our time involves being alone with God in prayer, sharing our love with family and friends, and volunteering our time in church and community activities that help others. Sharing our talents arise from the fact that God has given each of us the ability and gifts to do certain things well and we are to develop those talents for the good of others.

Just as in stewardship of treasure, it is important that giving of time and talent be intentional, planned and proportionate. Many individuals commit a certain number of hours each week to prayer and charitable activities. Giving of our time and talent is just as important as giving of our treasure. God does not hold back on any area of giving, so we are not to hold back on any area of stewardship.