

Even though we say that we believe, there is a part of us that doesn't. There are many times in our lives when we experience death, whether it be the physical death of someone we love, a failed relationship, the loss of a job, or a broken dream. As we are going through these death experiences, we can easily find ourselves reaching out to God to make it better and fix it! We think that the proper order of life is to maintain the things of this world, especially those things that are essential to our sense of well-being and security. We do not like change. The grieving that comes from our death experiences can keep us stuck and in despair. If we have lost something or someone of great value, the very meaning and essence of life is lost with them. We need gentle companions to lift us from despair and that is precisely who God desires to be in our life as well.

God calls us out of our tombs, where we have been closed up in fear and despair, and shouts, "Come out!" He desperately wants to show us



the path to hope and the new life that is possible after loss and death. But our faith can be weak, and we still prefer to cling to the memory of what we had rather than the joyful possibilities of tomorrow. We sometimes live as if God is not real and that the transformative power of His resurrected presence is a story found in the

Bible rather than a narrative unfolding in our lives.

God is the God of surprises, not our demise. God opens new possibilities, begins new chapters, creates new verses, and brings us to new heights! We spend so much time and energy ruminating over what we left behind yesterday that we are far too tired to see what can unfold tomorrow. Loving someone new doesn't negate our past loves. Embracing the love of a person, God, or life itself tomorrow doesn't diminish the love of yesterday. Each of our loves is different, and one cannot be replaced by another. They don't cancel each other out. God truly has tended to every detail of our lives, and if we listen to each detail, we find that they all lead us back to Him. Jesus wants us to come out of our closed-up tombs. Are we going to listen this time? ©LPI

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Allow me to share some important words of our shepherd, Bishop Robert McElroy, during these most difficult times of our church and our community. In his letter to the priests dated March 20, 2020, the Bishop said:

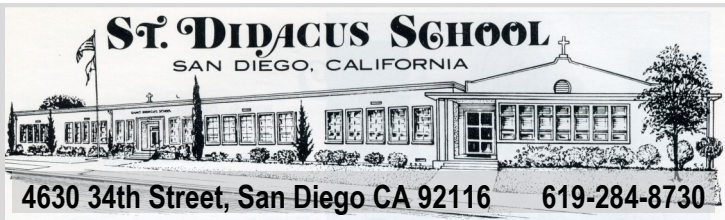


"The sacramental life of the Catholic community of San Diego and Imperial counties as we know it has effectively ended as a communal, personal experience. Mass cannot be celebrated publicly in any form or place. Baptisms which cannot be postponed must be private and include only members of the immediate family. Rites for the dead are limited to interment services at the cemetery with less than ten people; funeral Masses must be postponed until covid19 has been contained. There can be no communion services or liturgy of the word. Communal anointing and reconciliation services are prohibited. Weddings are to be postponed, or to take place with less than ten people. Quinceañeras must be postponed. All fonts in the church should be emptied.

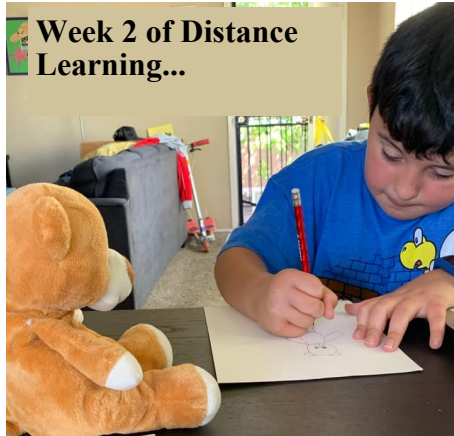
The great ritual moments of our liturgical life cannot be celebrated communally in coming weeks (Holy week and Easter Celebrations). Instead, the Diocese will provide streaming and recording of Holy Thursday Mass, the Good Friday liturgy, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Mass at the Diocesan website ([www.sdcatholic.org](http://www.sdcatholic.org)). The Easter sacraments usually given to those participating in the RCIA will be postponed to Pentecost. The Chrism Mass will be celebrated by the Bishops and the oils delivered to the dean's parish offices. Confirmation and First Communions will have to be rescheduled when the reality of this current crisis becomes clearer."

Here at our parish, since last Friday, March 20, with the state-wide order by government to "stay-at-home" I took the initiative to temporarily close the church for visitation and prayer including Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It would be difficult to limit people (not more than ten) to come at the same time and to follow up on sanitizing the pews and door handles every time or all the time as the case may be. Not to mention, being an inner city parish, we have had homeless problems of vandalism. Additionally, with the continued rise of infections, we want our senior members who are most vulnerable to this pandemic to stay at home. With the closure of the church, confessions will be by appointment basis and will be done at the parish office. I will make myself generally available every Saturday afternoon from 3:30PM to 5:00PM. Thank you very much for your faithful support of the church. Please be always assured that we are all together in this "desert experience." Jesus is with us!

Fr. Rick



**Distance Learning: A New Experience for Everyone!** St. Didacus School has transitioned during the last few weeks to a Distance Learning model. Students are learning at home with the guidance of their teachers—via a virtual classroom. Mrs. Dean reports: “There were just a few hiccups and minor issues at the start, but we found far fewer problems than we’d originally expected. This is due in large part to the work of our wonderful staff of teachers, but also to the individual efforts, patience, understanding, and flexibility of our parents. We all understand that this is not a perfect system, and we still have some things to iron out, but overall, it’s been working as well as we’d hoped.”



Check out the school’s Facebook page to keep up to date on what’s going on and to see photos of our students and teachers in action in Distance Learning. Please pray for our teachers, staff, students and parents, that this will be a fruitful time of learning and prayer.

**thank YOU**

Thank you for turning in your weekly envelopes! Many people have dropped them in the parish mailbox or have mailed them in. We appreciate your donations. They are helping us pay the bills!

May God bless you for your continuing support!

***This prayer unites you with God and all the Masses said throughout the world***

Since we are not able to attend Mass on Sunday, we can still unite ourselves to God and all the Masses said throughout the world. Use this brief prayer from the *Offices of Spiritual Communion* to express your desire to be in communion with God, recalling the reality that Mass is still being said, even though you are unable to attend.

*In union, dear Lord, with the priests at every altar of your Church, where your Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may be always united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate you from me. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.*

**Mass Intentions**

- Saturday.....March 28**
- 5:00PM .....Dan & Diann Bauer, Spec. Int.
- Sunday.....March 29**
- 8:30AM.....†Mary McNeilly
- 10:00AM.....People of St. Didacus
- 11:30AM.....†Roberto Medina
- Monday.....March 30**
- 7:30AM.....†Sean Neville
- Tuesday.....March 31**
- 6:00PM.....Sharon Brown, Spec. Int.
- Wednesday.....April 1**
- 8:30AM.....Virginia Buckland, Spec. Int.
- Thursday.....April 2**
- 7:30AM.....†Lucille Jackson
- Friday.....April 3**
- 7:30AM.....†Ed Sanclemente
- Saturday.....April 4**
- 5:00PM .....†Agnes Danna

**Please note that Fr. Rick continues to celebrate a private Mass each day for your intentions.**

**How are your neighbors? Have you checked in with them to see if you can be of assistance?**

**Readings for the Week of March 29th**

- Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45
- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Jn 8:1-11
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59
- Friday: Jer 20:1-13/Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56
- Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66

**PRAYER LIST**

- |                   |                          |                   |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Tony Allen        | Tony Flores              | Dolores Mediano   |
| Tessa Anderson    | Stan Hammack             | Peter Napolitano  |
| Diann Bauer       | Dolores Hansel           | Lupita Plascencia |
| Dan Bauer         | Joseph Hastings          | Judith Pratt      |
| Martha Becerra    | Jennifer Hughes & Family | Antonia Raya      |
| Bob Bellesi       | Al Hunt                  | Betty Rios        |
| Herminia Brignoni | Joanne Hunt              | Dolores Robertson |
| Gail Cedercrans   | Ponciano Jimenez         | Victor M. Sanchez |
| Fred Cepeda       | Emily Johnson            | Shirley Scinocca  |
| Irene Davis       | Paul Kasha               | Carol Schmidt     |
| MaryLou De Luca   | Meri Kerekanich          | Beverly Stempert  |
| Bob Demers        | Kerekanich Family        | Phillip Sturock   |
| Josie Demers      | Marilyn Kober            | Vaneza Torres     |
| Mick Donahue      | Elizabeth La Costa       | Maria Winters     |
| Cecelia Dueber    | Irene Lazo               | Jean Woody        |
| Carlita Durand    | Juanita Lopez            | Helen Yturralde   |
| Daniel Galvan     | Paul Mansell             | Joan Venverloh    |
| Susan Guenzel     | Terrence McCabe          |                   |
| Anthony Flores    | Emma McPherson           |                   |

*And the special intentions in our Book of Needs*



Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Permítanme compartir algunas palabras importantes de nuestro Obispo Robert McElroy, durante estos tiempos difíciles de nuestra iglesia y nuestra comunidad. En su carta a los sacerdotes del 20 de marzo de 2020, el obispo dijo:

“La vida sacramental de la comunidad católica de los condados de San Diego e Imperial, tal como la conocemos, ha terminado efectivamente como una experiencia comunitaria y personal. La misa no se puede celebrar públicamente de ninguna forma o lugar. Los bautismos que no pueden posponerse deben ser privados e incluir solo a miembros de la familia inmediata. Los ritos por los muertos se limitan a los servicios de enterramiento en el cementerio con menos de diez personas; las misas funerarias deben posponerse hasta que covid19 haya sido contenido. No puede haber servicios de comunión o liturgia de la palabra. Los servicios de unción y reconciliación comunales están prohibidos. Las bodas deben posponerse o realizarse con menos de diez personas. Las quinceañeras deben posponerse. Todas las fuentes en la iglesia deben vaciarse.

Los grandes momentos rituales de nuestra vida litúrgica no pueden celebrarse en comunidad en las próximas semanas (Semana Santa y Celebraciones de Pascua) En cambio, la Diócesis proporcionará transmisión y grabación de la Misa del Jueves Santo, la liturgia del Viernes Santo, la Vigilia de Pascua y la Misa del Domingo de Pascua en la Sitio web diocesano ([www.sdatholic.org](http://www.sdatholic.org)). Los sacramentos de Pascua que generalmente se entregan a los participantes en el RICA se pospondrán en Pentecostés. Los obispos celebrarán la misa de Crisma y los óleos se entregarán en las oficinas parroquiales del decano. La confirmación y las primeras comuniones tendrán que reprogramarse cuando la realidad de esta crisis actual se aclare”.

Aquí, en nuestra parroquia, desde el pasado viernes 20 de marzo, con la orden estatal de "quedarse en casa" por parte del gobierno, tomé la iniciativa de cerrar temporalmente la iglesia para las visitas y la oración, incluida la exposición y adoración del Santísimo Sacramento. Sería difícil limitar a las personas (no más de diez) para venir al mismo tiempo y hacer un seguimiento de la desinfección de los bancos y manijas de las puertas cada vez o todo el tiempo, según sea el caso. Sin mencionar que, siendo una parroquia del centro de la ciudad, hemos tenido problemas de vandalismo de los que no tiene casa. Además, con el aumento continuo de infecciones, queremos que nuestros miembros mayores que son más vulnerables a esta pandemia se queden en casa. Con el cierre de la iglesia, las confesiones se realizarán con cita previa y se realizarán en la oficina parroquial. Estaré disponible en general todos los sábados por la tarde de 3:30 p.m. a 5:00 p.m. Muchas gracias por su fiel apoyo a la iglesia. Tenga la seguridad de que todos estamos juntos en esta "experiencia de desierto". ¡Jesús está con nosotros!

P. Rick

***Now that Catholics are spending unprecedented amounts of time at home, how can we continue to stay spiritually engaged and even grow during this time?***

### **5 Ways to Stay Spiritually Engaged at Home**

#### **1. Build a home altar or shrine.**

Setting aside a sacred space in your home encourages your family to pray. Candles, a crucifix, a Bible, holy water, and your favorite sacred images can be placed on a small table to uplift the soul to God.

#### **2. Participate in the Mass.**

Catholics can still participate in the Holy Mass via livestream and worship as if they are actually there.

#### **3. Pray a daily family Rosary.**

Set aside 20 to 30 minutes each day to gather around your home altar as a family and to pray the Most Holy Rosary for a swift end to the pandemic, for all those afflicted, for all healthcare workers, for the souls of the faithful departed, and any intentions you and your family may have.

#### **4. Gain a plenary indulgence every day of COVID-19.**

The Church grants a plenary indulgence to all those who are suffering from the coronavirus, to healthcare workers who are treating those affected, and to all the lay faithful.

In order to obtain the plenary indulgence, Catholics must have the will to fulfill the usual conditions as soon as possible and do one of the following spiritual acts:

#### ***For those suffering from the coronavirus & healthcare workers treating them:***

- Attend Mass (even if this is only possible through video streaming).
- Pray the Rosary.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross.
- If Mass, Rosary, or Stations of the Cross is not possible, pray the Apostles' Creed, an Our Father, and a Hail Mary.

#### ***For the rest of the lay faithful:***

- Read the Bible for at least half an hour.
- Pray the Rosary.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross.
- Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The spiritual act must be offered for the following intentions: the end of the pandemic, relief for those afflicted, and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to himself.

#### **5. Study God's Word.**

Start a virtual small group, continue your existing small group via video chat, or study Scripture on your own. By studying God's Word and pondering it in our hearts, we will grow in our faith and fall in love with Scripture.

—These tips are from Ascension Press. Learn more about Ascension's spiritual guidance & free resource offerings during COVID-19. Visit their website at: [www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com).