



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## FERVENT DISCIPLES

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March 29, 2020

### MASS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY VIGIL:** 5:30PM

**SUNDAY MASSES:** 7:30, 9AM, 11:30 AM,

Spanish @ 1:30PM; Youth Mass @ 6PM

**MONDAY-FRIDAY:** 6:30 & 8 AM; **SATURDAY** 8AM

**RECONCILIATION:** Sundays 10-11:15 AM; Saturdays 4-5 PM;

or by Appointment call 610.644.1655

**ADORATION:** THURSDAYS 8:30 AM—3:30 PM; Saturdays 4-5 PM

### CLERGY

**REV. STEVEN J. ALBERO, O.PRAEM., PASTOR**  
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**REV. JAMES C. RODIA, O.PRAEM., PAROCHIAL VICAR**  
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**DEACON JOHN P. LOZANO**

**DEACON STEVE MARTINO**

**DEACON WILLIAM M. MASAPOLLO (RETIRE)**

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

As we approach Holy Week, our readings speak of a God who, in the midst of death, brings new life to the people. In Ezekiel, we hear that God will open the graves of the people of Israel, who faced near extinction. In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives new life to Lazarus in a manner that prefigures the resurrection of Jesus. Paul tells the Romans that in Christ, God will not only give life to our bodies after death, but God offers us abundant life here and now. We observe that the external conditions for the people described in these readings did not radically change. Israel was still in exile. Lazarus would eventually face death again. But now God's presence and power are revealed. Even when our situation in life is difficult and perhaps not likely to change soon, we remember that the Spirit dwells within us.

### EZEKIEL'S COUNTER-STORY

It is difficult to overstate the bleak situation faced by the people of Israel described in today's reading from Ezekiel. Babylon had invaded Jerusalem, killed many of its inhabitants, and destroyed the temple. Some of them were forced into exile in Babylon. Their captors and neighbors likely concluded that the Babylonian deity had pummeled the Hebrew deity into submission. Israel's God was as good as dead, and the people of Israel as well. In the midst of this catastrophe, Ezekiel announces a counter-story. The narrative of God's death is false. Israel's God is alive, and God's own breath will restore their life. They will be lifted out of the grave of their grief and despair, and be returned to their land. Ezekiel's message speaks to all of us who know of profound disorientation, of separation from loved ones, and of deep loss. God will bear our unbearable sorrow, and God's spirit will offer new life and hope.

### 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.

Today's Readings: Ez 37:12–14; Ps 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; Rom 8:8–11; Jn 11:1–45 [3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45]

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent****March 29, 2020**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice!

— Psalm 130:1

**Sunday, March 29**

5:30 Vigil	† Margaret DiPietro
7:30 AM	† Deceased members of the Moscater Family
9:00	† Paul Nguyen
11:30	† Deceased members of the Minnich Hargadon Families
1:30 PM	Pastor's Intention
6:00 PM	Our Parishioners

**Monday, March 30**

6:30 AM	Pastor's Intention
8:00	† Patrick Corcoran

**Tuesday, March 31**

6:30 AM	Pastor's Intention
8:00	† Joseph Greto

**Wednesday, April 1**

6:30 AM	† Robert Lynch
8:00	† Rocco Cadile

**Thursday, April 2**

6:30 AM	Pastor's Intentions
8:00	† Margaret Kennedy

**Friday, April 3—First Friday**

6:30 AM	Pastor's Intentions
8:00	† Spartico Decino
9:00	† Margaret Desmond

**Saturday, April 4**

8:00 AM	† Gaetano Muzio
5:30 Vigil	† Ralph & Mary Styshens

**Sunday, April 5**

7:30 AM	† Jonathan Lucks
9:00	† Victoria Fisher
11:30	† Garrett Rice
1:30 PM	† Julian Cabrabra
6:00 PM	Our Parishioners

## REMEMBRANCE CANDLES

### WEEK OF MARCH 29

Blessed Mother Candle  
and  
St. Joseph Candle  
burns for  
Our Parishioners

# Our Faith

**GIVE GLORY TO GOD**

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, just before we begin to enter Holy Week, we are summoned to Bethany. If we had been friends of Mary, Lazarus, and Martha, and found out that Lazarus was gravely ill, we probably would have dropped everything to be with them. This was what was so surprising about the behavior of Je-

**PRAYERS & READINGS**

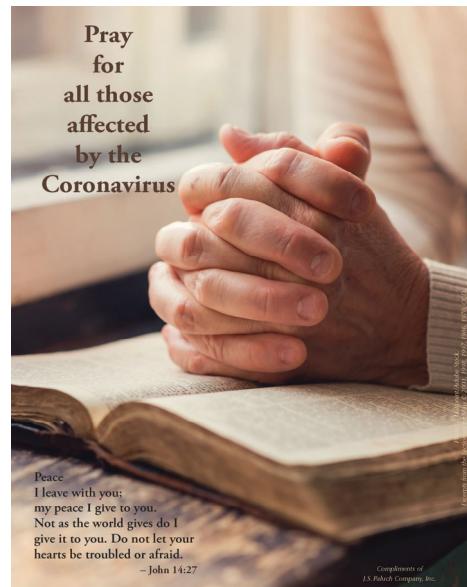
**PRAY FOR HEALING:** Corinne Kerrigan, Greg Kleckner, Julian D'Orazio, Maria Morales, Michael Fullam, Mary Corcoran, Tim Dippel, Alice Bowman, Dorothy Wilson, Ed Roff, Guillermo Maldonado, Helen Gelstine, Peter Lim, Ann Sassaman, Diana Reyes, Patricia Boyce, Louanne Armstrong, John F. Erickson, Debra Ulicny, Roberto Barajas, Joseph Mongiello, Mary Alice Spina, Sue Birmingham, Dan Petrella, Marion Fries, Isabelle Oravecz, Midge Malloy, Bob Denney, Mary Pyne, Jackson Kahn, Marc Palfy, Mary Ann Gallagher, Gerry Hughes, James Buroker, Layne McHugh, Deborah Nagle, J.D. Sobota, Ana Maria Bertsch, Lyndsay Whitmore, Graciela Gonzales, Ernestina Hernandez, Shirley Hoisington, Bob Walentis, Edgar Dolores Vega, Lily Walker, Philip Stadter, Miguel Angel de Leon, Anita Hogan, Winnie O'Brien, Pedro Sotorrio, Mark DeLuca, John Lee, Jane & Hugh Pluscauskis, Carol Lubecki, Christine Coyne, Patricia Uberti, Gilbert Mook

**Rest In Peace:** Stephanie Chmielewski, Patricia McFadden

**FOR OUR TROOPS:** Pvt. Matthew Cress, USA; Pvt. Jessica Flowers USA; Pvt. Michael Flowers, USA; Capt. Rob Kersey, USN; Capt. Spencer Lahiff, USMC; Sgt. Justin Lansford, USA; Pvt. Bryan McCormick, USA; Lt. Col. James Merenda, USAF; Lt. Nicholas Prestipino, USA; Sgt. R.J. Paski, USA; Sgt. Matthew Paski, USAF; Maj. Brian Wallin, DO, USA; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert Farber, USA; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert Dietrich III, USA, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dan Door and all the members of the 82nd Airborne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Joseph R. Ellis, USMC; Lt. Tyler M. Susa, USN

sus. Although he was their close friend, he chose to stay away, that God's glory would be manifested. This is a persistent theme in John's Gospel. Right to the very end, Jesus' works were meant to give glory to the Father. As our Lenten journey reaches a crescendo, let us be mindful that, as people who have "put on Christ" in baptism, we are also called, by our attitudes and actions, to give glory to God.

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday:Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1 -11
- Tuesday:Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday:Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday:Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
- Friday:Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday:Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
- Sunday:Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

# From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

There is such a wide range of ways to responding to what I am calling “Our New Parish Normal”. First and foremost, I want to echo what many are sharing these days: “*It is ok to not feel ok.*” A simple acknowledgement of that fact can be very assuring. As Archbishop Perez has made clear, “*the church has not closed*” and we at the parish are working to stay attentive to your needs as well as to give to our parish family ways to grow spiritually in these tough days. I want to assure you that we are here at the parish if you need us.

I want to thank you for all your support and care at this time. You have communicated your love and care so nicely. I am very proud of the way we have tried to communicate and continue to minister to the parish as a staff. I am in constant contact with the staff even though they are working from home. I asked the following of them:

1. We have made a commitment to keep each other in prayer daily and to pray for the people of the parish.
2. We have made a commitment to respond to phone calls and emails within a 24 hour window.
3. We have made a commitment to think creatively so that we can minister to you through new venues.

On our **[new parish website](#)** and our **[Facebook and Instagram accounts](#)**, there are links to many helps and guides provided by the **[Archdiocese of Philadelphia](#)** and other sources that the parish is either doing now or will be doing in the weeks ahead. Fr. Nelson is working on livestreaming the Spanish mass from his chapel at Devon Prep. Our staff and volunteers have created on a link from our homepage to up to date information so we can keep you informed. Our worship ministers are helping plan video reflections and Sunday Homilies. Our Youth Ministry is working hard to keep the youth connected and engaging them spiritually. Our Religious Education team is sharing resources with the Caffe teachers and families and students. Outreach ministers with the 50+ group are reaching out to our seniors in the community to offer help with groceries or other needs. Our School is up and running with remote learning.

I am confident that if we work together we can be the amazing Parish that we are growing into!! Please make a commitment to private prayer and reflection. Look over our STEPS program. Once we move beyond these days, STEPS will be what we need to regather and regroup. Continue to use our website and social media to keep abreast to all the updates and developments. We may not be in our physical parish building, but your church is here to support you.

Stay Healthy & Safe

God Bless,

Fr. Steve

## 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:

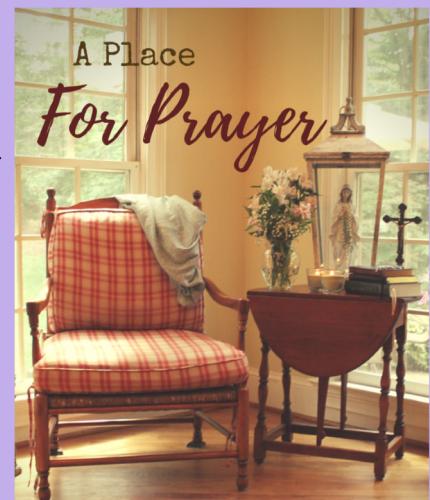
**Come, Holy God. Dwell in this place of prayer,  
and bless it with your peace and presence.**

**Bless all who seek you here.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

If you are unable to go to Mass, one idea for prayer together is to find a resource with the prayers and reading for Sunday Mass and pray those together. Your parish may have something you can take home and use. You can find the readings online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

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# Strength with Prayer

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the  
Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive  
You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into  
my heart. I embrace You as  
if You were already there and  
unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be  
separated from You.  
Amen.



### 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  
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### Prayer for the End of the Coronavirus

*Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus.*

*May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.*

*Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.*

*Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.*

*Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.*

*Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ, heal us.*

**COVER SHEET**

CHURCH NAME: St. Norbert Church

BULLETIN #: 911110

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Contact Ann Simpson at  
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