



## ST. MARY/ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHES – NEWSLETTER 7 – MAY 3, 2020

Have **WE** heard the voice of Jesus? Are we willing to allow Jesus, the “gatekeeper” into our lives as we strive for salvation? Peter’s response to the people in the Acts of the Apostles, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” is of great value to each of us. Many of us were baptized as infants and confirmed in grade school – do we really understand the meaning of these sacraments or are they just rituals that our parents put us through as they followed the directions of the Catholic Church when they were married or we were baptized?

**When we were children, our parents’ faith was our faith.** As we entered our teen years and early 20’s we had to take on the Catholic faith as adults. **Each one of us does it differently.** Some “catch” the “fire” of Confirmation and it is full steam ahead. Others slowly walk away when it is easier to stay in bed on Sunday (after 7 weeks without going to a church to celebrate Eucharist, for the first time in my life, I am beginning to understand how this happens), others are angry with people who attend church or what the church teaches and leave, still others think that it is a power play – “since my parents want me to go to church I am not going,” and others need to grow in an adult faith before they realize the “Good News” and the need for spiritual encouragement and enrichment through the sacraments while participating in a Faith Community. We all have our own reasons for developing a relationship with God.

**In the Second Reading,** “Beloved: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God” fits into the Paschal Mystery of the Easter Season and our lives. **The Gospel message of the life of Jesus, his death through crucifixion, resurrection from the dead, and continued life with the disciples** (which we read about in the Acts of the Apostles) is enriching to each of us and hopefully, will allow each of us to **HEAR the voice of Jesus & BELIEVE!** May **HOPE and JOY** fill your days as we “Stay Home & Stay Safe.”

The Bishop’s letter is enclosed. Masses will be suspended (cancelled) through May 18<sup>th</sup> at this time. Please read the letter. **We will truly REJOICE when we meet again!**

**ALLELUIA!!! ALLELUIA!!! ALLELUIA!!! EASTER BLESSINGS! (:**

**Points of Information:**

- **Congratulations to: Tim & Mary Jo Halfman** who celebrated 40 years of marriage on April 26, 2020 and **Kim & Jim Brown** who celebrated **25 years of marriage on April 29, 2020**. May your marriages continue to grow in God’s love, peace, and joy in the years to come! **Blessings!**
- **Please keep Ethan Sian**, who will make his Profession of Faith and Confirmation in the Catholic Church when we resume Eucharistic Celebrations, **in your prayers**. His journey is a bit longer than usual but graced with the prayers of our Faith Communities!
- **Please keep Jeff Sova**, brother of Barbara Spitzley, and **Eleanor Piela**, wife of John Piela, **in your prayers**. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen
- **Please keep our First Communion Students - Ella Strachan, Taylor Cunningham, Brynleigh Wright, & Abigail Katt - in prayer** as they await reception of their First Holy Communion during a year to remember!
- **The Carson City Food Pantry will be held on May 5, 12, 19, & 26. Strong Volunteers are needed. Please come about 9:45 a.m. if you have time to help.**
- **The SJB Hall hot water heater rusted out and needed to be replaced.** The Hall has a new 75 gallon heater – there is plenty of hot water now! Funds in memory of Quint Cusack & the SJB March CSA Rebate covered the cost.
- **The SJB Outside Mass with a Dedication of the Veterans’ Memorial** in the Cemetery immediately following Mass, **First Communions, Confirmation, and the Graduation Mass for Seniors** will be scheduled as soon as possible.
- **The American Red Cross Blood Drive WILL** be held at St. Mary Hall on **Wed. May 6<sup>th</sup> from Noon-5:45 p.m. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. To schedule: visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)(sponsor code: carsoncity) or call 1-800-733-2767.
- **The deadline for SM & SJB Scholarship Applications has been extended until May 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please mail it or put it in the mailbox outside the office!
- **2020 CSA information** will be mailed out when Masses resume.

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS:**

	<b>SM</b>	<b>SJB</b>
Blue (21)/green (12) envelopes:	\$1,850.00	\$2,475.00
Easter Offerings: (3)	230.00	30.00 (1)
Catholic Relief Services: (3)	180.00	70.00 (2)

**Thank you to all who have generously contributed to help pay the bills. Envelopes can be sent to: SM/SJB Parishes 404 N. Division St. Carson City, MI 48811**

**May each of you know that you are in my prayers as we journey together – Happy May! (:**