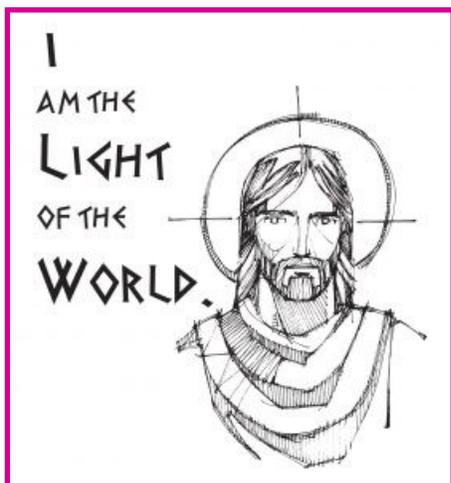


Today we celebrate Laetare Sunday, names for the first word in the opening antiphon: **"Rejoice"**. Lent can seem burdensome with its emphasis on penitence and sacrifice.

And particularly during this Lent, we are all faced with unexpected sacrifice. But let us look with anticipation to the Easter miracle. Jesus' resurrection is the light at the end of the tunnel. Let us always give thanks for the light He gives to our lives.



Readings for this Week (March 23-28)

Monday: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez. 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
Wed. (Solemnity) Is. 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb. 10:4-10; Lk. 1:26-38
Thursday: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
Friday: Wis. 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer. 11:18-20; John 7:40-53

**Scripture for next Sunday
(5th Sunday of Lent)**

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says: I will open your graves.

Psalms 130

"With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption."

Romans 8:8-11

The life-giving Spirit dwells in us.

John 11:1-45

The Lord says: Lazarus, come out!

Ezekiel shares a radical vision of Israel's future: God will burst open graves, reanimate the dead, and restore them to their land. Jesus puts such a plan into action, opening the tomb of Lazarus, bringing him back to life, and restoring him to his family. Paul assures us that with the Spirit within us, our mortal bodies will have life as well. Listening to scripture next Sunday, let us reflect on how God's redeeming grace raises us up from our sin and despair.

From the Pastor 

This week, I would like to write from an introvert's perspective. Why would I want to do that? I do this because I am an introvert, and being an introvert has given me a perspective on this current viral outbreak that I would like to share. As I said last week, I know people are scared about what is going to happen in the future. People are worried about what they should be doing. I will offer some thoughts on how I am handling this.

One of the reasons I have felt for the most part at ease while dealing with this crisis is that the things I am doing to deal with this are things I would be doing anyway. I am an introvert. I have lived most of my life alone and been very comfortable doing that. While I have spent time taking vacations with my family and some friends, I have also taken many vacations by myself. I have taken trips by myself where I spent days either living in the wilderness or out in a kayak somewhere. I spent the week after Easter last year in a campground on South Holston Lake. I spent some time talking with other campers in the area, but I spent most of my time either on the lake in a kayak, or laying in a hammock reading a book.

I know that not everyone will find these things as appealing as I do. Some people thrive on being in large crowds of people. This is something we are not going to be able to do for a while. I write this as someone who has found great peace in solitude. We are going to be compelled to do some things we are not going to want to do in the near future. As I said last week, let us all find ways to make the best of this.

We do not have to confine ourselves in our houses all day. That may be necessary in some parts of the country, but not here. We live in an area where there are many places we can get out and enjoy ourselves without being in a large crowd. Get out and take a walk. Take your kids for a walk. Find a quiet spot outdoors to spend some quality time with your family. Have a picnic. If you do not know where to go, I can give plenty of suggestions.

Above all, please take some time to pray. Pray with your families. Teach your children the importance of finding strength in prayer. I know that no matter what we do this is going to be a difficult time for all of us. We can still make the most of this time so that we emerge from this stronger and more prepared to deal with the next challenge that comes our way.

**Please continue to check website for any updates:
www.stannes-bristol.org**

Fourth Sunday of Lent

*** Given the necessary restrictions to public gatherings in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to ensure the common good, to provide for public health and safety, our Diocese has notified us that:

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE....

— Suspension of public celebrations of Mass

(no Mass here on weekdays, Sundays, Holy Days)

(Fr. Chris will post a video Mass on our parish webpage for Sunday—www.stannes-bristol.org)

We do plan to still have Confessions (in the church) at the regularly scheduled times. But we will NOT have a Lenten Penance Service.

During regular office hours, if you wish to come by the church for private prayer, we will open the church for you, however, the office door will remain locked.

Weekly Tuesday Adoration has been cancelled.

We will NOT have **Soup & Stations** of the Cross.

Please take note that the following programs/activities, previously on our calendar, have been cancelled:

Senior High and Junior High Youth Ministry

—Effective immediately, all Sr. High and Jr. High programs/activities are cancelled until further notice.

MJM7& Concert

- The MJM7 Concert that was scheduled for Sunday, March 29th, has been postponed. As soon as a new date is set we will pass that information along.

Sunday School of Religion (SSR)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sacramental Preparation

—are all cancelled until further notice.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA)

—March meeting (3/23) has been cancelled.

Children's EASTER CHOIR rehearsals:

— cancelled until further notice.

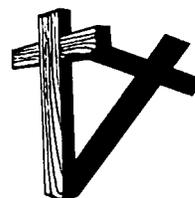
Adult Faith Formation activities are cancelled.

St. Anne's Annual Parish LENTEN RETREAT

The Lenten Retreat has been cancelled this year since we have our retreat at the Jubilee House Retreat Center and all diocesan retreat centers have been either closed or limited to gatherings of not more than 15 people until further notice.

Although we will be restricting access to the parish office and the school, the staff will be continuing to work... but we ask that you contact the office by phone (general office 276-669-8200, ext. 0) or by email at stannes@stannes-bristol.org.

Check the parish website at stannes-bristol.org under Latest News for any changes/updates.



From the Bishop....

As anxiety and concerns about COVID-19 takes root throughout this land, the Lord is speaking to us, calling us to a deeper relationship with Him. This age may seem to be a time of fear and isolation, but we have an opportunity to see it in a new light, as a retreat into the desert with Our Lord and to encounter God in solitude and prayer. As Psalm 91 says:

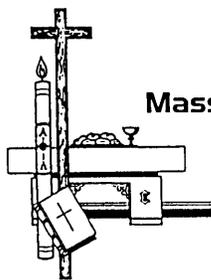
“You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the plague that prowls in the darkness, nor the scourge that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at our side, ten thousand fall at your right, you it will never approach; his faithfulness is buckler and shield.”

As the world responds to this emergency, we turn our attention to the Holy Spirit to give us strength and courage in times of trial and suffering. We offer our prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and ask the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May we know the depths of the Lord's merciful love and may Our Lady keep us in the mantle of her protection to intercede for us in our time of need.

Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs

CD of the Week: “Seven Last Sayings of Christ”

Spoken as he suffered the agony of the cross, the seven last sayings of Christ recorded in the gospels have been the subject of prayer and inquiry by Christians for two thousand years. Dr. Scott Hahn unlocks for us the deeper significance of our Lord's words, carefully chosen so that we might better understand the immense love of God for every person and His plan of salvation. Find this CD and many others in the “Lighthouse” display in the commons. A \$3.00 donation per CD is appreciated and helps us to restock with new titles.



Mass Intentions

PLEASE TAKE NOTE... (updated 03/18/2020)

As this bulletin goes to press (3/15/2020), although there will be no public Masses celebrated at Saint Anne's until further notice, Fr. Chris will be celebrating a private Mass each day and will include the scheduled Mass intention in his prayers.

(On Sunday, the Mass intention will be for Parishioners; one intention will be transferred to Monday and Fr. Tim Drake will cover the other Sunday intention.

If you have questions regarding your scheduled intention and if you would like to reschedule, please contact the parish office, otherwise please know that the intention will be covered at the private Masses.

Saturday, March 21 (Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent)

†Janet Agnes Wnuk

Sunday, March 22 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

†James Wilson (will be celebrated by Fr. Drake)

†Mike Arnold (will be moved to Monday, 3/23)

Tuesday, March 24

†Casey Lowicki

Wednesday, March 25

†Barry Brady

Thursday, March 26

St. Anne's parishioners

Friday, March 27

†Lorraine M. Smith

Saturday, March 28 (Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent)

†Lynn Marie Murphy

Sunday, March 22 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

†Debbie White

†Special Intention

PILGRIMAGE/RETREAT

Yellowstone National Park! - October 11-16, 2020

Father Michael Cummins (*Pastor of St. Dominic's in Kingsport, TN*) will be offering a retreat in our nation's first National Park from October 11-16. The days will consist of wildlife viewing in the park early morning through early afternoon, followed by Mass, retreat talks, and prayer opportunities in late afternoon and evening. The cost for the pilgrimage/retreat is \$1,995 (airfare not included).

For more information please contact St. Dominic Catholic Church in Kingsport, TN at 423-288-8101 or email stdomchurch@aol.com.

PLEASE NOTE:

As a precaution and due to concerns about the possible spread of COVID-19, our regular weekly **Adult Faith Formation** programs have been cancelled until further notice... these include:

- SMARE
- RCIA
- Monday Adult Faith Formation
- Book Club
- Tuesday Scripture Study
- Wednesday Scripture Study
- Wednesday Prayer Group

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is cancelled at the Saint Vincent de Paul Center until further notice.

PRAY for VOCATIONS!!

"The Lord looks on the heart."

Are you called to bring the Light of Christ to the world through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Call Father Brian Capuano at 804-359-5661 or email him at vocations@richmonddiocese.org.



Collection Report (March 14/15)

Regular/Operating \$5,954.75

Egiving Report (March 1 to 14, 2020)

Regular/Operating \$4,950.00

Catholic Relief Svcs. \$ 100.00

Bristol Faith in Action (BFIA) \$ 153.00

St. Anne's School/2nd coll. \$ 500.00

Maintenance Reserve* \$ 160.00

(*former Bldg. fund)

Upcoming Second Collections:

- March 22: Catholic Relief Services
- April 5: St. Anne's School
- April 26 Catholic Virginian (offsets cost to parish)

** Holy Thursday, April 9 (1 collection: outreach to local poor)

** Easter (Apr. 11/12) (both the regular Sunday operating AND Easter Holy Day placed in the 1 basket at the offertory)

Please remember to continue to **support Saint Anne's** during these difficult weeks — if you are unable to come to Mass, your contributions by mail or Egiving are greatly appreciated as we still have to still pay our bills and meet our payroll.

Thank you!!

Novena Prayer to St. Rocco

O Great Saint Rocco,
Deliver us, we beseech thee, from the
scourges of God; through thy intercession,
preserve our bodies
from contagious diseases,
and our souls from the contagion of sin.

Obtain for us salubrious air;
but, above all, purity of heart.

Assist us to make good use of health,
to bear suffering with patience;
and, after thy example,
to live in the practice of
penance and charity,
that we may one day enjoy the happiness
which thou has merited by thy virtues.

Saint Rocco, pray for us
Saint Rocco, pray for us
Saint Rocco, pray for us
Amen.

Dear Parishioners,
Please know of our ongoing prayers for all of you
during this time. May God bless you and keep you
safe and well.

Fr. Chris & St. Anne's Staff

