

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**IGLESIA CATÓLICA DE SANTA MARÍA**

1291 E. MADISON AVE

ATHENS, TN 37303

My dear parishioners,

Peace! On the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, 7 October, 2019, Pope Francis established the feast of Our Lady of Loreto, to be observed each year on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. At the same time Pope Francis proclaimed a Laurentian Jubilee Holy Year to run from 8 December, 2019 through 10 December, 2020. There are fifty-one invocations in the *Litany of Loreto*. The following is a reflection on the fifteenth invocation: **Mother of Mercy, pray for us.**

What does it mean to call Saint Mary "Mother of Mercy"? Saint Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote about "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3). If the Eternal Father is the Father of mercies, Our Lady the Blessed Virgin Saint Mary is the Mother of Mercy. Saint Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mother of Mercy, proclaimed the mercy of God when visiting her cousin Saint Elizabeth: "His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him" (Luke 1:50). Saint James, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote that "Mercy triumphs over judgment" (James 2:13). It is Christ the Lord who is triumphant over sin and death, the Cross and the grave. Saint Mary is His Mother, according to the flesh. She is the Mother of Mercy. If you asked the couple at the Wedding at Cana whether or not Saint Mary is the Mother of Mercy, who saw their need and interceded for them, they would resoundingly answer YES (cf. John 2:1-11)! With mercy she still intercedes for us with her Son.

The *Salve Regina (Hail Holy Queen)* prayer, which we pray liturgically at *Compline* and devotionally with the Rosary, includes the invocation *Mater misericordiae* (Mother of Mercy) in reference to Our Lady. Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. (+1936) includes in her diary *Divine Mercy in my soul* an explicit private revelation of the Blessed Virgin Saint Mary as "Mother of Mercy" as well as many other references to Our Lady throughout (*Diary*, 330). Saint John Paul II (+2005) who canonized Faustina in the Jubilee 2000, published an encyclical letter on the richness of God's mercy dedicates an entire article to Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, recognizing the "deep theological meaning" of this Marian title (*Dives in Misericordia*, 9; 30 November, 1980). There are seven "Spiritual Works of Mercy" and seven "Corporal Works of Mercy" through which we show our love of neighbor (cf. Mark 12:31). Saint Mary's spiritual children surely are happy to undertake these tasks in obedience to her Son even as she told the waiters at Cana: "Do whatever He tells you" (cf. John 2:5). The works of mercy are: admonish the sinner, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, pray for the living and the dead; feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, shelter the homeless, bury the dead.

Father John Arthur Orr

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**Contacts for :**  
CCD—Oneta Fioravanti— 865-712-6819—classes meet Sunday at 11:15-12:45 in the CCD Building and Youth Room.  
Youth Ministries—Sue Granger— 423-506-7836. Meets in the Youth Room on Wednesday following mass.  
RCIA—Jack Cox - 423-836-2979  
Hispanic Ministry—Alicia Mora—423-368-5310  
Parish Family Life Center (PFLC) - Kay Prevatt 423-453-2049. Contact her to schedule all use/rental of the PFLC by parish groups and the public.  
To schedule use of the Narthex call the office.

**NEW TO OUR PARISH**—If you are new to our parish see one of our ushers for a **BLUE PARISH CENSUS FORM**. They are also located on the Narthex Table or the slots in back of the church on the left as you leave. Also let the office know if you would like envelopes. **TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION (CHANGES) FILL OUT THE YELLOW COPY ONLY.**  
**For Sacrament information call the office.**

**PALM SUNDAY — APRIL 5, 2020**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. John Arthur Orr **Rectory:** 423-745-0904  
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Erasmo Hernandez  
**Parish Office:** 423 745-4277 **Fax:** 423-745-9706 **Email:** stmaryathenstn@att.net **Website:** www.stmaryathenstn.org  
**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday– Thursday 8am-4:30pm Friday 8:00–11am  
**WEEK DAY DAILY MASS:** 9am plus Wednesday at 6pm. **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASS TIMES 9AM AND 7PM**  
Saturday: First Saturday of month 9am; Vigil Mass 5pm **If Holy Day is on a Wednesday Mass will be at 6PM**  
Sunday: Mass 8am Latin, 10:00am English and 1pm Spanish  
**CONFESSION:** Saturday 4:00-4:45pm Sunday 9-9:45am, 12-12:45pm

**Stewardship/Collection**  
March 28/29, 2020

Offertory (Envelopes/Check-Cash-On Line)	\$ 2,477.00
Loose Offering	\$ 98.00
Mass/Coffee/Candles/Rmbr/Rent/Flowers/etc.	\$ 260.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,835.02</b>
Building Fund - March total to date—\$ 1,765.00	\$ 200.00

Second collections will be collected after Communion

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

3/22—Catholic Relief Services	\$181.00	\$ 95.00
3/29— Good Samaritan—1/2 Coordinated Charities	\$318.00	\$ 273.00
Deficit Reduction—As of July 2019	\$ 48,580.01	\$ 830.00

DEFICIT REDUCTION ENVELOPES (GOLD) AVAILABE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH  
HOME CAMPAIGN (\$73,024.53)  
For the month of—February 2019— \$327.00  
**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT—**  
February 29, 2020 is posted in Message Center  
If you would like to receive collection envelopes please call the office.

.....**DURING THESE TRYING TIMES PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH BY MAILING IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN OR VISIT [www.stmaryathenstn@att.org](http://www.stmaryathenstn@att.org) to give on line.** Thank You

**Daily Mass Readings**  
April 6, 2020—April 12, 2020

-Method for Prayerfully Reading the Scriptures  
(Lectio Divina) 1. Read 2. Reflect (meditate) 3. Respond (pray) 4. Rest (contemplate)

Monday, April 6—Is 42:1-7//Jn 12:1-11  
Tuesday, April 7—Is 49:1-6//Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
Wednesday, April 8— Is 50:4-9a//Mt 26:14-25  
Thursday, April 9— Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1Cor 11:23-26//Jn 13:1-15  
Friday, April 10—Ex 52:13—53:12//Heb4:14-16,5:7-9//Jn18:1—19:42  
Saturday, April 11— Gn 1:1—2:2//Gn 22:1-18//Ex 14:15—15:1//Is 54:5-14//Is 55:1-11//Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28//Rom 6:3-11//Mt 28:1-10  
Sunday, April 12—Acts 10-34a, 37-43//Col 3:1-4 or 1Cor 5:6b-8//Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

**READINGS - YEAR A** – Order of the Mass begins in section with the gray edges #140  
04/05/2020—Palm Sunday—Year A # 898  
04/12/2020—Easter Sunday—Year A # 899

**This Week in our Parish**

"During these times that we are not physically attending Mass, Father John Orr is recording timely video messages and prayers for all of us. Links to these videos, along with messages from the Bishop, and televised Masses are available on our website. The website is updated routinely to facilitate communication within our Church. Other means to view Father John's messages is via St Mary's Facebook page and YouTube channel (links are on our website). Please subscribe/Like the page in order to get updates."  
[www.stmaryathenstn@att.org](http://www.stmaryathenstn@att.org)

**Sunday—April 5, 2020 PALM SUNDAY**

Monday—April 6, 2020— Tuesday—April 7, 2020  
Wednesday—April 8, 2020— Thursday—April 9, 2020  
Friday—April 10, 2020—GOOD FRIDAY  
OFFICE CLOSED  
12PM—Stations of the Cross  
7PM Passion of the Christ Readings  
Saturday—April 11, 2020—HOLY SATURDAY  
8:30PM - EASTER VIGIL  
Sunday—April 12, 2020  
**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
**CANDLE DONATIONS**—We are asking for a donation of \$3.00 per candle to help defray the cost of the candles and Blue Globes

**ATTENDANCE—**  
March 28/29, 2020—Total  
5pm—00 //8am— 00 //10am—00 1pm—00

Peace! Here is a link to "spiritual communion".  
<http://www.knoxlatinmass.net/SpiritualCommunion.htm>

**Act of Spiritual Communion**

*My Jesus, I believe that Thou art truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love Thee above all things, and I desire to receive Thee into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive Thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace Thee as being already there, and unite myself wholly to Thee. Never, never permit me to be separated from Thee.  
Jesus, my sweet love, wound and inflame this heart of mine, so that it may be always and all on fire for Thee. Amen.*

### Mass Intentions

April 4—12, 2020

THE CHURCH WILL BE LOCKED DURING PRIVATE MASS TIMES

- April 4— 9AM and 5PM Saturday  
 +Leslie Witkin from St. Mary Parish  
 +Dick McCartney from Marie McCartney
- April 5—Sunday-8 Latin/10 English// 1 Spanish  
 PALM SUNDAY  
 St. Mary Parish  
 34th Anniversary of Dennis & Sissy Aparicio-Rascon  
 +Betty Thomason from Hugh and Connie Reed
- April 6—9AM Monday  
 +James & Corrine Swanson from Von Peters Family
- April 7—9AM Tuesday  
 +Gary Klein from Judy Klein
- April 8—9AM and 6PM Wednesday  
 St. Mary Parish  
 +Robert Whitaker Jr. from Bob and Rhoda Whitaker
- April 9—7PM Holy Thursday  
 +Fr. Joseph Fiedorowicz from Hugh and Connie Reed
- April 10— 9AM Friday -GOOD FRIDAY  
 NOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
 7PM The Passion of the Lord
- April 11— 8:30PM Saturday—HOLY SATURDAY  
 Reparation for using the Lord's Name in Vain from Annette DuChemin
- April 12—8AM Sunday—Latin/10AM English//1PM Spanish  
 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD  
 +Gary Klein from Judy Klein  
 St. Mary Parish  
 For all Non-Believers that they will believe

### ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 29, 2020

BUDGET CATEGORY	FY 2020 BUDGET	EXPENDITURES THROUGH 2/29/2020	% EXPENDED
PASTORAL-ADMIN/GENERAL	\$191,991	\$ 127,844	67%
LITURGY	22,400	14,701	66%
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	13,675	9,407	69%
MINISTRY OF YOUTH	7,573	2,378	31%
MINISTRY FAMILY/PARISH LIFE	2,505	1,053	42%
PARISH COUNCIL-GENERAL	320	215	67%
PLANT/PARISH OPER & MAINT	71,980	52,120	72%
TOTALS	\$310,444	\$207,718	67%

CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
MONTHLY REV. FEB. 2020 \$ 20,418	REV. JULY 2019 - FEB. 2020 \$ 193,597
MONTHLY EXP. FEB. 2020 25,521	EXP. JULY 2019 - FEB. 2020 207,718
OPER. SURPLUS (DEFICIT) \$ (5,103)	OPER. SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (\$14,121)

SUMMARY:

CURRENT FY 2020 DEFICIT	(\$ 14,121)
CARRY OVER DEFICIT PRIOR YEARS	(\$ 30,583)
FALL FESTIVAL FUNDS AS OF 2/29/2020	\$ 16,962
ST. MARY CHURCH ACCUMULATED DEFICIT	(\$ 27,742)

PARISH FAMILY LIFE CENTER DEBT:

ORIGINAL NOTE (12/1/2012)	\$625,000	
NOTE BALANCE AS OF (2/29/2020)		\$111,954

(All Figures Rounded)  
 "Thank you for your stewardship generosity."

**ON LINE GIVING** - Visit our website at [www.stmaryathenstn.org](http://www.stmaryathenstn.org) to become a part of our "ON LINE GIVING," available to our parish.

\*\*\*\*\*EXTENDED THRU 4/30\*\*\*\*\*

### ST. MARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - High School Seniors and College Students

Applications and all required submissions will be accepted from January 1st to APRIL 30TH of 2020. Applications (along with the rules) can be picked up at the church office or at the St. Mary web site, [www.stmaryathenstn@att.org](http://www.stmaryathenstn@att.org). The annual program awards at least two scholarships per year with a maximum of \$20,000.00 per year. Application is open to any incoming freshman or returning college student as well as any incoming or returning technical school student from Meigs, McMinn, Monroe and Polk counties. The deadline for application to be accepted if complete and postmarked between Jan 1st and APRIL 30TH, of each year. All paper work must be completed and returned by APRIL 30, 2020 or postmarked by the 30TH. Funding for this program is provided through a private donation specifically for this program.



### PRAYER CHAIN—Call Carol Webb at 744-7378 to be placed on the prayer chain, or if you would



like to help. Keep in your prayers Jane Meyer, Tom and Mandy Nichols, Laura and Bill and Mary Nichols, James Winner, Levi and Sally Sanford, Karen Humphries, Phil Frye and all of our sick and homebound.



**High School and College Graduation Sunday**—Please, help us be aware of our St Mary's graduates! We are planning our Senior Blessing Mass and Reception in May. Please contact Sue Granger.

**Ladies for Charity.** Thank you Parishioners for your continued generosity of donating food for our Food Pantry. Food needs for March are peanut butter, noodles, canned fruit and tuna. If you need food assistance, please call Diane Schwartz at 423-745-9062.



**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR  
 YOU TO COME  
 PRAY AND SPEND TIME WITH JESUS.  
 OPEN 8AM—4:30PM**



**THE JESUS PRAYER  
 LORD, JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER**

**PALMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH ON MONDAY**



**The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit**—Posted this idea on their Facebook page: What if everyone on Palm Sunday, April 5th in the morning, puts a branch on the door or window to celebrate Palm Sunday? It could be any green branch you can get. This would help despite the social distancing to be connected as we enter the Holiest of Weeks. We may be physically isolated, but not separated. We are united as the body of Christ. We are the Church.

With masses canceled in many dioceses across the country, we realize that families are trying to stay connected to the Eucharist in a way that children can understand.

**Children Celebrate!** To help families with this, we are offering a FREE digital version of the Children's Leaflets for our Spring Quarter (March 1st - May 24th) of *Children Celebrate!* our Children's Liturgy of the Word program. Each lesson includes: Full-color leaflets that retell each week's Scripture message. Puzzles and other activities. A Family Corner feature with ideas to build on the Gospel message. Please feel free to share this link with your families so that they can celebrate the Gospel message together as a family each week during this difficult time.

### Bishop issues decree on Holy Week liturgies

MARCH 23, 2020 DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE, NEWS

On March 23, 2020, Bishop Richard F. Stika issued a decree to assist the clergy and the faithful in the spiritual celebration of Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

You can read the full decree here.

The decree mandates that there shall be **no public gatherings** (inside or outside churches, in cars, etc.) during Holy Week. Masses shall be celebrated without a congregation by the pastor/parish priest.

Bishop Stika will privately celebrate liturgies throughout Holy Week, and they will be available to watch via live stream. Visit the DOK website for times.

Palm Sunday: Sunday, April 5 at 9 a.m.

Holy Thursday: Thursday, April 9 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday: Friday, April 10 at 3 p.m.

Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 12 at 9 a.m.

For updates from the Diocese please go the DOK website at "dioknox.org" for the most recent update from the Bishop.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET THE BULLETIN BY E-MAIL PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR NAME AND E-MAIL TO - [stmaryathenstn@att.net](mailto:stmaryathenstn@att.net)

If you know of an elderly or sick/homebound that has errand's that need to be run call the office at 745-4277 or Sissy's cell 423-462-5625 or text Paulette at 423-333-8674. If you would like to help with this call the office or Sissy.

## Saint Roch

### Prayer to St. Rocco against Disease

O Great St. 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 virtue



Cleary, Gregory. "St. Roch." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 13. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912. 26 Mar. 2020  
<<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13100c.htm>>.

<https://buildingcatholicculture.com/the-patron-saint-against-plague-and-the-great-art-he-inspired/>

Born at Montpellier towards 1295; died 1327. His father was governor of that city. At his birth St. Roch is said to have been found miraculously marked on the breast with a red cross. Deprived of his parents when about twenty years old, he distributed his fortune among the poor, handed over to his uncle the government of Montpellier, and in the disguise of a mendicant pilgrim, set out for Italy, but stopped at Aquapendente, which was stricken by the plague, and devoted himself to the plague-stricken, curing them with the sign of the cross. He next visited Cesena and other neighbouring cities and then Rome. Everywhere the terrible scourge disappeared before his miraculous power. He visited Mantua, Modena, Parma, and other cities with the same results. At Piacenza, he himself was stricken with the plague. He withdrew to a hut in the neighbouring forest, where his wants were supplied by a gentleman named Gothard, who by a miracle learned the place of his retreat. After his recovery Roch returned to France. Arriving at Montpellier and refusing to disclose his identity, he was taken for a spy in the disguise of a pilgrim, and cast into prison by order of the governor, — his own uncle, some writers say, — where five years later he died. The miraculous cross on his breast as well as a document found in his possession now served for his identification. He was accordingly given a public funeral, and numerous miracles attested his sanctity.

In 1414, during the Council of Constance, the plague having broken out in that city, the Fathers of the Council ordered public prayers and processions in honour of the saint, and immediately the plague ceased. His relics, according to Wadding, were carried furtively to Venice in 1485, where they are still venerated. It is commonly held that he belonged to the Third Order of St. Francis; but it cannot be proved. Wadding leaves it an open question. Urban VIII approved the ecclesiastical office to be recited on his feast (16 August). Paul III instituted a confraternity, under the invocation of the saint, to have charge of the church and hospital erected during the pontificate of Alexander VI. The confraternity increased so rapidly that Paul IV raised it to an archconfraternity, with powers to aggregate similar confraternities of St. Roch. It was given a cardinal-protector, and a prelate of high rank was to be its immediate superior (see Reg. et Const. Societatis S. Rochi). Various favours have been bestowed on it by Pius IV (C. Regimini, 7 March, 1561), by Gregory XIII (C. dated 5 January, 1577), by Gregory XIV (C. Paternar. pont., 7 March, 1591), and by other pontiffs. It still flourishes.



## Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

(By Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque)

I give myself and consecrate to the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, my person and my life, my actions, pains and sufferings, so that I may be unwilling to make use of any part of my being other than to honor, love and glorify the Sacred Heart. This is my unchanging purpose, namely, to be all His, and to do all things for the love of Him, at the same time renouncing with all my heart whatever is displeasing to Him. I therefore take You, O Sacred Heart, to be the only object of my love, the guardian of my life, my assurance of salvation, the remedy of my weakness and inconstancy, the atonement for all the faults of my life and my sure refuge at the hour of death. Be then, O Heart of goodness, my justification before God the Father, and turn away from me the strokes of his righteous anger. O Heart of love, I put all my confidence in You, for I fear everything from my own wickedness and frailty, but I hope for all things from Your goodness and bounty. Remove from me all that can displease You or resist Your holy will; let your pure love imprint Your image so deeply upon my heart, that I shall never be able to forget You or to be separated from You. May I obtain from all Your loving kindness the grace of having my name written in Your Heart, for in You I desire to place all my happiness and glory, living and dying in bondage to You. Amen.

[https://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/litanies/sacred\\_heart.htm](https://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/litanies/sacred_heart.htm)  
<http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/sheart2.htm>

Cover image is the Sacred Heart of Maryvale,  
Birmingham, England, UK

**Response:** *have mercy on us*

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,  
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of  
the Virgin Mother,  
Heart of Jesus, one with the eternal Word,  
Heart of Jesus, Infinite in Majesty,  
Heart of Jesus, holy Temple of God,  
Heart of Jesus, Tabernacle of the Most High,  
Heart of Jesus, House of God and Gate of Heaven,  
Heart of Jesus, aflame with love for us,  
Heart of Jesus, source of justice and love,  
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,  
Heart of Jesus, well-spring of all virtue,  
Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,  
Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,  
Heart of Jesus, treasure-house of wisdom and knowledge,  
Heart of Jesus, in Whom there dwells the fullness of God,  
Heart of Jesus, in Whom the Father is well pleased,  
Heart of Jesus, from Whose fullness we have all received,  
Heart of Jesus, desire of the eternal hills,  
Heart of Jesus, patient and full of mercy,  
Heart of Jesus, generous to all who turn to you,  
Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness,  
Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins,  
Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with insults,  
Heart of Jesus, broken for our sins,  
Heart of Jesus, obedient even to death,  
Heart of Jesus, pierced by a lance,  
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,  
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,  
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,  
Heart of Jesus, victim of our sins,  
Heart of Jesus, salvation of all who trust in you,  
Heart of Jesus, hope of all who die in you,  
Heart of Jesus, delight of all the Saints,

✠



### Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Lord, have mercy	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
Christ, have mercy	<i>Christ, have mercy</i>
Lord, have mercy	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
Christ, hear us	<i>Christ, hear us</i>
Christ, graciously hear us	<i>Christ, graciously hear us</i>
God the Father of Heaven,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
God the Holy Spirit,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
Holy Trinity, One God,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,  
*have mercy on us.*  
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,  
*have mercy on us.*  
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,  
*have mercy on us.*

V. Jesus, gentle and humble of heart.  
R. *Touch our hearts and make them like Your own.*

#### Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God, look upon the Heart of Your most beloved Son and upon the praises and satisfaction which He offers You in the name of sinners; and to those who implore Your mercy, in Your great goodness, grant forgiveness in the Name of the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who with the Holy Spirit lives and reigns with You forever and ever. Amen.

### Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of all good, I adore You, I love You. Deeply sorry for my sins I offer You my poor heart. Make it humble, patient, pure, and in all things conformed to Your desires. Grant, O good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You. Protect me in dangers, console me in affliction, give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, blessing in all my undertakings and the grace of a holy death. Amen.

**BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020/  
ANIVERSARIO DE CUPPLEANOS y BODA PARA ABRIL 2020**

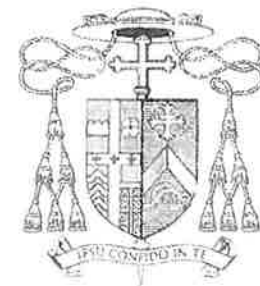
**happy  
birthday  
to you!**

*Celebrating  
Anniversaries  
this Month*

- 04/01 Sheila Amato, Allen Casey III, Rachel Curtis, Bruce Nagel  
04/02 Sally Kessler  
04/03 Pamela Meja  
04/04 Aurora Baez, Joe Kross, Fr. William D. Oruko, A.J., Maria Ramirez, Hugh Reed, Bob Whitaker  
04/05 Evelyn Sandoval, James J. Urban,  
04/06 Mayra Medina  
04/07  
04/08 Laura Betts, Marion Kennis  
04/09  
04/10 - 04/11 -  
04/12 Sherri Martinez, Maria Zavala, Roberto Zavala,  
04/13 04/14  
04/15 Mary Guthrie,  
04/16 Jose Lopez, Karla Sanchez Vaca,  
04/17 Natalie Lopez, Olga Silva  
04/18 Marion Jenkins  
04/19 Gail Buckley, Isabell Domzalski, Ramon Sanchez, Levi Sanford  
04/20 Sean McCormick,  
04/21  
04/22 Olivia McCormick, William McCormick  
04/23 Holly Gates  
04/24  
04/25  
04/26 Joel Cabral, Karla Garcia, Judith Klein, Melisa Santa Maria Laso  
04/27 Linda G. Nadeau, Isabell Ortega  
04/29  
04/30 Thelma Pikciunas, Maria Santoy Cortes

***April Wedding Anniversaries***

- April 1, 1967—James and Mary Winner***  
***April 5, 1986—Dennis and Sissy Aparicio Rascon***  
***April 16, 1988—Lou and Helen Dionne***  
***April 28, 2010—Paloma and Jose Garcia***



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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE

April 2, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hold you in my prayers during this difficult time in the life of our Church, our country, and the world. Presently, the coronavirus pandemic has taken center stage, with alarming statistics and increasing numbers of sick people and deaths. My dear brothers and sisters who reside in this wonderful diocese throughout East Tennessee, I call on you to lift this COVID-19 crisis in prayer. Pray that God will heal our land and all the countries of the world. It is the first thing we should do. It is the most important thing we can do. It is the thing we should do at all times, as the Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, to "pray without ceasing."

With that being said, as we approach Palm Sunday and Holy Week, I feel compelled as your bishop to share two pastoral thoughts with you. First, as you are aware by now, public Masses are canceled in the Diocese of Knoxville until further notice. As such, I know there is great sadness shared by each of you in not being able to participate publicly at Mass and not being able to receive the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith. Please know that I sincerely and wholeheartedly share in your sadness and disappointment.

During this time, I encourage each of you, as frequently as you can, to watch Mass via livestream or television and at the appropriate time make a "spiritual Communion". St. John Paul II writes that "it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist." This practice of "spiritual Communion" has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. St. Teresa of Jesus wrote: "When you do not receive Communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you." To make a "spiritual Communion" simply pray these words: 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.

Second, I want to encourage each of you to pray the Way of the Cross through livestream or television tomorrow (Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Good Friday (April 10<sup>th</sup>). The Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will livestream the Stations of the Cross after the noon Mass tomorrow (at 12:30 p.m.) and at 12:00 noon on Good Friday. I make this request because the experience of suffering and of the cross touches all of us. I know this pandemic and the restrictions put in place to control the spread of the coronavirus are difficult! There are misunderstandings, conflicts, worry for the future of our children, and especially worry of succumbing to sickness and death. These days, too, the situation of many families is made worse by the threat of unemployment and other negative effects of the economic crisis. The Way of the Cross, which we can spiritually retrace, invites all of us, and families in particular, to contemplate Christ crucified in order to have the strength to overcome difficulties.

My brothers and sisters, the cross of Christ is the supreme sign of God's love for every one of us, the superabundant response to every person's need for love. In times of trouble, when our families may have to face pain and adversity, let us look to Christ's cross. There we can find the courage and strength to press on; there we can repeat with firm hope the words of St. Paul: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:35, 37).

During this time of trial, as your bishop, the shepherd of the faithful of East Tennessee, I want to remind you that you are not alone; your family is not alone. Jesus is present to you with His love; He sustains each of you by His grace; and He grants you the strength needed to carry on, to make sacrifices, and to overcome every obstacle.

We must move forward with faithful, unceasing prayer, as well as persistence, patience, and grace. God bless you all!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika  
Bishop of Knoxville