

4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

When I was a youngster “Laetare” Sunday was special: 2/3rd of Lent was complete; soon I’d be able to eat candy/ice cream/go to movies; daylight savings time would give longer days; we began regular baseball practice; and summer vacation was not far behind! Yes, Laetare Sunday was truly a day of “RADIANT JOY!” Unfortunately, in this time of the CoronaVirus outbreak, we are not feeling joyful and our spirits are not that radiant. This year Lent feels more like a time of fasting from many important things that we value. First and fore-most, we are fasting from our Catholic faith practices, not being able to attend Sunday or daily Mass; adoration time in church is limited; we have to say prayers alone this year instead of praying in community. All these activities are ones that we miss. We are also having to fast from many everyday activities that we enjoy doing. We can’t visit with many relatives and friends, afraid to catch or spread this virus. Something that is so enjoyable must be given up, so that we do not foster illness. Finally we are fasting from the things we enjoy doing: going to movies, to restaurants, to places of learning and culture. Who would ever have thought that fasting would be this difficult? It is so much easier to give up chocolates or candy. But I do believe deep in my heart, that as bad as the situation we are in, there is something to be gained for our growth in faith. More people are reaching out to one another to offer their time and resources. I have received calls from parishioners who are willing to share extra food they have or paper products, for those who have very little. I have also received calls of support and outreach from people letting me know that they are there to help when needed. So there is a reason to rejoice after all. Fasting this Lent is bringing out the best in us: Love, Hope, Service, and Kindness. Let us keep this Lenten fasting alive as a way to draw closer to God and to one another. ~ Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

Please be assured that your Mass intentions are being held every day by Fr. John. We know it saddens you not to be present, but the prayer intention is being celebrated at Mass. If you have an upcoming Mass and wish to reschedule, please call the parish office.

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner

We are very grateful to the Boy Scouts, their leaders and parents for hosting the St. Patrick’s Day dinner. They did a great job! They leaders along with Fr. John planned on how to handle the COVID-19 crisis and balance it with the food & tickets already purchased. Many attended, many ordered dinners to go, many purchased leftovers to bring home! Thank you to all!!

Church Availability

Although the church will not have public Mass, we will open the church daily from 3-6pm for personal prayer. Please be sure to spread out and keep 6 feet between yourself and other parishioners. Remember for your health safety to wash/sanitize your hands when entering and exiting the church.

Sisters of the Holy Cross Calendar Raffle

Unfortunately, we are unable to present the raffle calendars nor speak on behalf of our Orphanage in Haiti. However, donations for the Orphanage are welcomed. Mail check to Srs of H Cross/C Daneau Fund, 365 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH 03109 by March 25. If you wish to purchase a \$10 raffle calendar with the opportunity to win between \$25 to \$500 during the month of April, please indicate “raffle calendar” and include your phone number. Thank you. May you each stay well. God Bless you.

~ Sr. Denise Turcotte, csc