



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Sunday : Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, Pt 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21
 Monday: Acs 16:11-15, Jn 15:26-16:4a
 Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34, Jn 16:5-11
 Wednesday: Acts 17:15,22-18:1, Jn 16:12-15
 Thursday: Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Mt 28:16-20
 Friday: Acts 18:9-18, Jn 16:20-23
 Saturday: Acts 18:23-28, Jn 16:23b-28
 Sunday: Acts 1:12-14, Pt 4:13-16, Jn 17:1-11a

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY May 18, 2020, St. John I, Pope
 7:00AM Nancy Tarnell (Living)
 Healing Prayers
 9:00AM Marcella Miller
TUESDAY May 19, 2020
 7:00AM Mike Bergin
 9:00AM Mary and Dominic Sanzoverino
WEDNESDAY May 20, 2020
St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
 7:00AM First Responders of Covid-19
 9:00AM Sam Smith
 5:00PM Sr. Mary, Sr. Kathleen and Sr. Karen (Living) Sisters of St. Ignatius Convent
 7:30PM All Essential Workers of Covid-19
 Mass in Spanish
THURSDAY May 21, 2020, The Ascension
 7:00AM Fr. James T. Stachacz (Living)
 9:00AM Mary Jane Tunny (Living)
 7:30PM Stanley J. Stachacz -Mass in English
FRIDAY May 22, 2020, St. Rita of Cascia
 7:00AM Mike Bergin
 9:00AM James McNamee
SATURDAY May 23, 2020
 9:00AM Eleanor Saunders
 5:00PM Sr. Mary Jane Fitzgibbon
SUNDAY May 24, 2020
Seventh Sunday of Easter
 7:30AM Louise and Louis Parmigiani, Sr.
 9:30AM Ellen Tuzzolo
 11:00AM Raymond Morris
 Cortez J. Howard
 Mildred Carre
 12:30PM St. Ignatius Loyola Parishioners
 7:00PM German Parra- Mass in Spanish



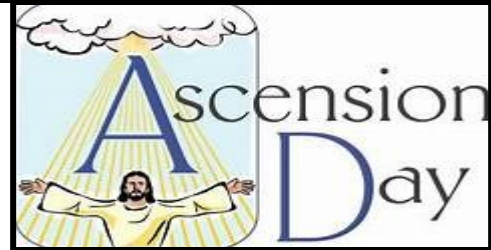
We Pray For Our Sick

Jennifer Lentini, Peter Donato, Josephine Lucas, Antonio Esposito, Michael Krummenacker, Jim Keough,, Carolyn Fitzgerald , Mary Messina, Florence Morris, George Natarus, Theresa Kessler, Lorraine Mierzejewski, Thomas Santangelo, Margaret Ann Sweeney, Jermey Longoria, Lukas Melende, Angelique Cadarr, Lourdes Mulligan, Leny Miongiello, Ann Calza, Catherine Sottung, Timothy Mulligan, Arthur Marks, Remedios Koenig, Joan Chwalisz, Jacqueline Perez, Clare McCarthy, Stephen Gazda, Baby Julia Roi, Thomas Aull, Brian Shea, Victor D'Amico, Christopher Kampala

Names will be kept on the Prayer for the Sick List for three weeks, unless a family member calls to extend the time.

*We Pray For Our Dead
 And We Mourn With You*

Matteo DiMarco
 Ronnie Hayes



Ascension Thursday—May 21, 2020
It is a Holy Day of Obligation.
 Wed., May 20th On-line Mass at 7:30pm
 Thursday, May 21st. On-line Mass at 12 Noon

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Anyone with a family member serving in the military, please forward their name and rank to our bulletin editor at bulletin1859@aol.com or bring the name to our Rectory Front Office.

We pray to give all of our military personnel the courage and strength to do the duty that is required of them. May they always remember our appreciation for the sacrifice they are making for us. We are thankful for the men and women who are willing to risk their lives to protect our freedom. I ask You to go with each of them and protect them wherever they go. Amen.

- Sgt First Class. Matthew Loheide
- MSgt. Kevin J. Hennelly
- CDR. Jonathan W. Lang
- CDR.. Jeanine A. Lang
- SPC Justin T. Sikorski
- Staff Sgt. Mathew Burrafato
- Col. Paul J. Laughlin
- Major Patrick O. Kelly, USMC
- 2nd Lt. Thomas P. McLoughlin, USMC
- Atan Lisa Olynk, USN
- M Sgt. Michael Marascia
- Sgt. Stephen L. Emlaw
- P.O.Third Class E-4 Kyle A. Kamermayer, Navy
- Major Edward A. McGoldrick, US Army
- Steven Orbon, 1st Lt., U.S. Army
- Lt. David Jacobs
- Pvt. Thomas Wright
- Tech Sgt. Peter F. Clark, USAF
- Capt. Joseph Whittaker, USMC
- SSGT Michael J. Mc Ilwrath, USMC
- 1st Lt. James Michael Vaz, U.S. Army
- Gunnery Sgt. Brian Moran, USMC
- Cpt. Richard Macchio
- Pvt. Joseph Gergely, U.S.M.C.
- LTJG Alie Disher, U.S.N.
- LTJG John Patrick Orr, USN, C.E.C.
- PVC Andrew Hughes
- Sgt. Lotachukwu Okoye
- PFC Jim Arbelaez, US Marine
- Sgt. Dustin Lusby
- LTJG Christopher Medford, US Navy
- Airman First Class Gianinna Roldan (USAF)
- PVT Lorenzo LaPlaca, US Army
- Corporal William J. White, USMC
- Pvt. Daniel Sullivan, US Army
- PO3 Hunter Morales, US Navy
- HA Morrigan Hayes, US Navy
- SA Peter Cavallo, US Navy
- Adam Cespo—Air Force
- Oscar Martinez—Marines
- Pvt Ryan Blazo

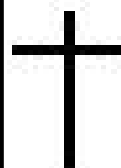
For your convenience, below is a directory of our parish staff e-mails and extensions.

- Fr. Jim - Pastor Ext 147
frjim@stignatius.us
- Fr. Benjamin Ext. 122
zuuben@hotmail.com
- Fr. Frank Ext. 123
- Colleen - Rel. Ed. Ext 126
- Director ctuzzolo@stignatius.us
- Barbara - Rel. Ed. Ext. 127
- Admin. Assist. bmalerba@stignatius.us
- Joe - Human Services 935-8846
isamodulski@stignatius.us
- Maribel Pacific Ext. 116
- Music Director mrlpacific@icloud.com
- Nancy - Bulletin Editor Ext 110
bulletin@stignatius.us
- Joan - Secretary- Ext 117
igdellaratta@stignatius.us
- Don Cleary - Ext 131
parishfacilities@stignatius.us
- Jeanne -Business Office –Ext 118
icalhoun@stignatius.us
- Tony - Maintenance Supt.– Ext 125
tcondron@stignatius.us
- George Mais - Deacon—Ext 140
deacongeorge@stignatius.us
- mgomez@stignatius.us
- Parish e-mail silparish@stignatius.us



A recorded Mass will be shown at 12 Noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
A Mass live-steamed will be shown on Sundays at 11AM celebrated by Fr. Jim.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING



Sunday, April 27th-May 3rd

Maintenance \$5,109.00
\$ 583.00

May is the Month of our Lady, Mary, Mother of the Son of God and Mother of the Church. Since we are unable to have a formal public Mass and gathering for her annual crowning with flowers, I invite you to join us by car this Saturday, May 16, 2020 for a Drive-Thru Prayer, May Crowning and Procession.

The Saint Anne Mother's Prayer Group invites all to the special May Crowning this year: A Drive-Thru May Crowning and Blessing at St. Ignatius Loyola. Saturday, May 16th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (All visitors are requested to remain in their cars with their windows closed for this event. Please enter by E. Nicholai St. and follow the traffic directions for procession) Please bring a flower to leave at the statue of Our Blessed Mother Mary. We also ask, if you are able, to bring a donation of non-perishable food items for our Human Services Food Pantry.

To prepare spiritually for your visit that day, go to the Gospel of St. Luke in your Bible at home or online and read Chapter 1 verses 39 to 56. This is Mary's visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, and Mary's Magnificat.

When you arrive at St. Ignatius Loyola, you will be lead by one of our priests with the sign of the cross and the Our Father. Then as you travel slowly but smoothly, through our grounds, someone will lead you to pray the Hail Mary as you pass near the statue of the Blessed Mother. Finally, as you begin to leave the grounds at the driveway on East Cherry Street, Fr. Jim will bless you and all in the car with the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance. As you are blessed please say the phrase: LORD JESUS, YOU ARE THE BREAD OF LIFE, I TRUST IN YOU.

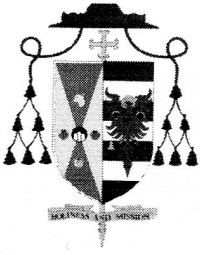
Once you return home, re-read the Gospel and say as a family or with others: *O Mary, Mother of the Church, Conceived without Sin, Pray for Us Who Have Recourse to Thee.*

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday! Thank you to our St. Anne's Mother's Prayer Group organizing this drive-thru procession.

Like our patron, may we always strive to do things for the greater glory of God. May God bless you and Mary keep you and your families always. *St. Ignatius Loyola, pray for us!*

Fr. Jim





DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Preparation for the Reopening of Public Mass

May 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Coronavirus has affected society and the Church in ways unlike anything we have experienced in our lifetimes. None of us could have imagined the impact on our families, our livelihoods, and our practice of the Faith. As treatments for the sick and potential vaccines are developed, it is important that we act prudently for everyone's wellbeing, body and soul.

What has the Church been doing?

Hospital chaplains have heroically ministered to the sick throughout this crisis and parish food pantries continue to support those most in need. Your priests have adapted as best they can to the limits of "distance ministry" while struggling to manage the devastating impact on our parishes and schools. Catholic school teachers, administrators and Faith Formation volunteers are admirably upholding standards of excellence while keeping our children engaged online. Catholic Charities is addressing the physical and emotional needs of people around the clock.

We know that there is a hunger to return to public Mass and the celebration of the Sacraments. Pray that this hunger spreads among active and inactive Catholics, so that our Churches may soon be filled and experience a lasting renewal when we reemerge.

The challenges facing us:

Much is still unknown about the virus and how best to deal with it. As a result, many decisions are actually judgment-calls based on a review of the information available. What is known is that the virus is deadly, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable. As of this writing, nearly 75,000 have contracted the virus and over 3,500 souls have returned to God, just within the territory of our Diocese. May our Heavenly Father welcome them and comfort their families. Our hospital systems, front-line doctors, nurses and support staffs were very nearly overrun.

All of this leaves us with an enormous challenge: **when and how to reestablish public liturgies in a way that does not irresponsibly place the common good and the health of our people in grave danger.** These are serious moral issues. If we can protect the sanctity of human life and the stability of our healthcare system by cooperating with sensible limitations and safety practices, then we have a moral obligation to do so. This is not a surrendering of our right to practice our Faith. It is an exercise of our moral responsibility for the common good. Therefore, we are carefully forming our plan for the reopening of public Mass in consultation with medical experts and civil authorities who share in our responsibility for the common good.

The Holy Mass

The Holy Mass is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our Salvation (Catechism of the Catholic Church – Article 3, Paragraphs 1322 – 1419). The Mass unites us to the sacrifice of Christ, the gift of himself to the Father for us. Spiritual Communion, which has been a continual part of the Church's theology through

Saints Augustine, Aquinas, John Vianney, John Paul II and others, has allowed us to remain united to the Lord's Body and Blood, offered daily by our priests, even when we are not physically present or do not physically receive Holy Communion.

Considerations for Reopening

The conditions on Long Island are being carefully monitored and preparations are being made. **However, we do not yet have a date for reopening public Masses.** Medical experts and civil authorities have urgently asked that congregate gatherings of any size remain suspended until we better understand the risks and how they are managed.

When it is determined that we can gather for Mass with reasonable safety, it will likely involve precautions that will require everyone to make sacrifices. However, the Mass is not our "personal possession". It is a gift from God entrusted to the Church. Therefore, the dignity of the Mass and the Church's liturgical laws must be respected and observed. Certain elements of the Mass can be adapted while others cannot because we do not have the authority to alter them.

Limitations may involve facial coverings or masks, limits on seating capacity to maintain social distancing, changes to the Mass schedule to allow for cleaning, modified procedures for the distribution of Holy Communion, etc. This will involve tremendous coordination between clergy, parish staffs and volunteers, as well as training and preparation. Guidelines and protocols are being developed that will be shared with pastors. The dispensation from the obligation to physically attend Mass will likely remain in place for a time, especially to protect the elderly and most vulnerable among us.

Other Sacraments

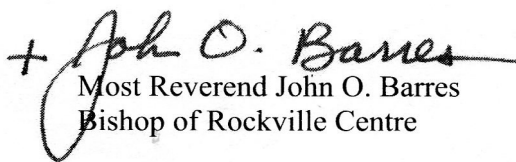
The period of isolation has delayed celebrations of Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations and Weddings. Funeral Masses for loved ones have also been postponed. We understand the sorrow and sacrifice of those awaiting the celebration of Holy Sacraments. Please understand the enormous stress that this will place upon your very limited number of priests, some of whom are older and particularly vulnerable because of health concerns. We ask for your patience, understanding and compassion as your clergy serves you as best we can through these complex and very challenging times.

Our Prayers and our Gratitude

Dear friends, thank you for your prayers and support throughout this crisis. Your parish Church depends on weekly contributions in order to survive and carry on Christ's saving mission. The loss of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday collections is a serious hardship for the functioning of a parish. Likewise, Catholic Charities, our Catholic Schools, and the Catholic Ministries Appeal all rely on support from the Faithful to carry out their missions. We are so grateful for your dedication, especially during these most challenging times. Please know that you are remembered in my prayers and daily Masses.

The risen Christ has won the victory over death. His grace will strengthen us to carry this cross so as to share in his resurrection.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,


+ John O. Barres
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

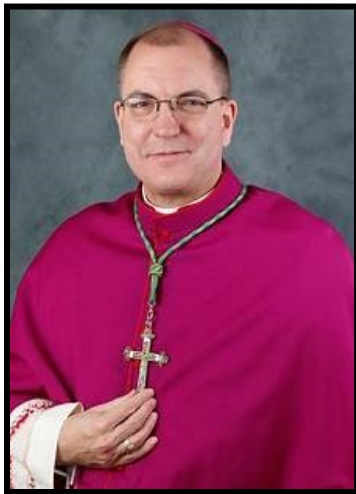
50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Tel: 516-678-5800, ext. 221 • Fax: 516-594-0984 • www.drvc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BISHOP BARRES TO CELEBRATE SPECIAL MASS IN RECOGNITION OF LONG ISLAND HEALTH CARE WORKERS

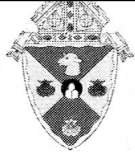
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y., May 5, 2020 — As Long Island health care workers join with health care professionals across the world in battling COVID-19, the Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre (DRVC) will celebrate a special Mass in recognition of their heroic work.



On Sunday, May 17, 2020, in the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, Bishop Barres will celebrate a White Mass, offering prayers for the safety and well-being of all Health Care Workers. Named for the white coats and uniforms worn by many health care professionals, White Masses are special opportunities to ask God's blessings for all those serving in the health care field.

The White Mass will be broadcasted on Catholic Faith Network (CFN), beginning at **11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 17**. CFN is found on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296 and Spectrum channel 162/471. The Mass can be viewed any time after 11:00 a.m. on cfntv.org, drvc.org and on Diocese of Rockville Centre social media platforms. You can also watch CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Android or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching for "Catholic Faith Network" or "CFN". In the tri-state area, the Mass will also air at 11 a.m. on WLNy-TV 55, Ch. 10 and on select CBS stations nationally, check local listings.

"On behalf of the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, I thank each and every one of our first responders, our doctors, nurses, health care workers, health care chaplains, volunteers at our Catholic Health Services hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, Catholic Home Care and Hospice, Maryhaven and all of the hospitals across Long Island," said Bishop Barres. "God has blessed our diocese with incredible health care workers for this battle against COVID-19."



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Tel: 516-678-5800, ext. 221 • Fax: 516-594-0984 • www.drvc.org

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5/11/2020

11 MAY 2020

BISHOP-ELECT ROMERO, M.Id TO BE ORDAINED ON JUNE 29, 2020

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. – May 11, 2020 – The Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre, announced today that Bishop-Elect Luis M. Romero Fernandez, M.Id will be ordained as an



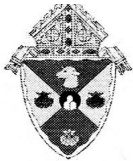
auxiliary bishop for the diocese on Monday, June 29, 2020, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, at 2:00 p.m. in Saint Agnes Cathedral. Bishop Barres will ordain Bishop-Elect Romero. Bishop William Murphy, the Bishop-emeritus of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and Bishop Robert Brennan, the Bishop of Columbus, Ohio, will serve as co-consecrating bishops.

The original Episcopal Ordination date of April 16, 2020, was postponed due to New York State gathering requirements resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The appointment was publicized on March 3, 2020, by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

“This is great news for the Diocese,” said Bishop Barres. “I repeat the expression of my deepest thanks to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for this outstanding appointment to help pastor this diocese. With a humble spirit, Bishop-Elect Romero is both a true intellectual and a zealous shepherd of souls with, as Pope Francis has said, the ‘smell of the sheep.’”

The Episcopal Ordination will air live on Catholic Faith Network (CFN) at 2:00 p.m. EDT. It will be replayed later that evening at 8:00 p.m. Catholic Faith Network can be viewed on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471. CFN is also available on selected cable and satellite systems and through 24/7 live stream at CFNTV.org. You may also watch CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android, or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching “Catholic Faith Network” or “CFN”.

Pursuant to New York State Executive Order 202.10, all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reasons (e.g. worship services, parties, celebrations, or other social events) were canceled or postponed, effective March 23, 2020. As of this media release, this Executive Order remains in effect and, as of this release, the Episcopal Ordination will be virtual, meaning that it will not be open to the public. For the safety of all, only a limited number of individuals deemed integral to the celebration of the Mass will be permitted inside the Cathedral for this Ordination. If a subsequent Executive Order affecting public gatherings is enacted impacting the celebration of this Mass, the Diocese will issue an



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Tel: 516-678-5800, ext. 221 • Fax: 516-594-0984 • www.drvc.org

updated statement. Please visit www.drvc.org and Diocese of Rockville Centre social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) for updates.

“Please be assured that when it is deemed safe to gather, the Diocese will schedule a Public Mass commemorating Bishop Romero’s ordination. While the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging all of us, please pray for continued strength and perseverance that we may one day soon be able to gather together as a community of communion in the celebration of Holy Mass,” said Bishop Barres.

We are now offering the new Fe Fuerza Vida Spanish-language Enewsletter. Like The Long Island Catholic Enews, Fe Fuerza Vida Enews is designed to supplement the monthly printed edition and will be emailed weekly... on Fridays and more frequently, when events warrant. Since printing and delivery of the monthly newspaper was suspended in March until further notice due to COVID-19, the Fe Fuerza Vida Enews will include a link to the digital version of Fe Fuerza Vida newspaper.

Fe Fuerza Vida
El Periódico en español de la Diócesis de Rockville Centre
MENSAJE DEL OBISPO JOHN O. BARRES
AL PUEBLO DE DIOS DE LONG ISLAND

Boletín Electrónico
Clave de la Acción Católica en Long Island

¡Suscríbese!
www.fefuerzavida.org



STEWARDSHIP



“Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining.”

1 Peter 4:8-9

The First Pillar of Christian Stewardship: Hospitality

The first weekend of this period of Stewardship Renewal is always Awareness Weekend. Jesus tells us to first remove the wooden beam in our own eye before we can remove the splinter in our brother’s eye. He also tells us, “the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.” You need to have awareness of your own faults and obligations. You also need to be aware that you are not the only person on this Earth, and that you need to love your neighbor as yourself.

The first pillar of Christian Stewardship is all about becoming aware of your own worth and the worth of others. When you are hospitable to others you are showing the fact that they are worthy. As human beings created in the likeness of God, we all deserve the right to life and respect. Jesus also tells us that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for Him.

Practicing hospitality towards our neighbors is a simple yet effective way to practice good stewardship. The coronavirus pandemic and shutdown put a lot of people through hardships that still continue. We have been put on this earth during a once in a lifetime pandemic, and how are we going to respond to it? Be hospitable to those around you. Tip your food delivery driver, call your elderly friends and family and give to your parish offertory (if possible, perhaps give your weekly offering for the weeks you were out). Remember, as St. Teresa said, we are Christ’s Hands on Earth.

Living Stewardship

A smile, a good gesture and a nice attitude go a long way. Do those things to show the world you are a Christian.



CATHOLIC FAITH — NETWORK —

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) Broadcast of the Celebration of the Eucharist:

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, New York

Monday – Friday at 8:30 am & 12:30 pm ET

Sunday at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm ET

St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York

Monday – Friday at 6:30 pm ET

Our Lady of Loretto Church, Hempstead, New York

Sunday at 6 pm ET

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is available throughout the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut area on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471.

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is also available on selected cable and satellite systems nationwide, along with a vast on-demand library of original programming and a **high quality 24/7 live stream** at CFNtv.org

You can also watch CFN on **Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android**, or by downloading the **CFN iOS mobile app** at the app store by searching “Catholic Faith Network” or “CFN”

optimum
Channel 29/137

Verizon FiOS
Channel 296

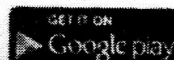
Spectrum
Channel 162/471

apple tv

amazon fire tv

android tv

Roku



May 4, 2020

Peconic Bay Medical Center Foundation acquires former McGann-Mercy High School property

RIVERHEAD, NY — Peconic Bay Medical Center Foundation (PBMC Foundation) announced today that it has acquired the property and buildings formerly occupied by McGann-Mercy Diocesan High School in Riverhead from the Diocese of Rockville Centre (drvc.org). The 24-acre parcel has been unoccupied since the school closed in June 2018.

“In the spirit of ongoing community benefit and investment, the Peconic Bay Medical Center Foundation is pleased to have reached an agreement with the Diocese of Rockville Centre for the purchase of the former Bishop McGann-Mercy High School property,” said Andrew Mitchell, Peconic Bay Medical Center Foundation president and CEO. “The Foundation looks forward to working with the medical center and the Town of Riverhead to develop future plans recognizing the growing and diverse health care needs of the East End”

Emilie Roy Corey, chair of the PBMC Foundation Board and a longtime community member, noted, “Since 1956 this property has been devoted to education and service to the community. We are happy to have concluded our negotiations with the Diocese of Rockville Centre so that we may proceed in planning for the continuation of service to the community with much needed expanded health care services.”

Peconic Bay Medical Center’s ongoing expansion of clinical programs and services, including the recent opening of the Corey Critical Care Pavilion and Kanas Regional Heart Center, underscores the hospital’s ongoing need for additional space as it continues to evolve into the regional medical center for the East End.

“Knowing that this property, which has been dormant since the school closed, will in the future provide much-needed healthcare for the community, will be a great tribute to Venerable Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy,” said Sean P. Dolan, director of communications, Diocese of Rockville Centre.

###

Creciendo en la Fe TM

Descubriendo esperanza y gozo en la fe católica.

Mayo de 2020

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
Rev. James T. Stachacz, Pastor

Meditaciones breves

Santa Rita de Cascia

Nacida en 1381 cerca de Spoleto, Italia, desde muy joven santa Rita fue conocida por su santidad y su caridad. Quería ser monja, pero la forzaron a casarse cuando tenía doce años. Lamentablemente su esposo era cruel y violento. Al cabo de dieciocho años de matrimonio, enviudó. Tras la muerte de sus hijos entró finalmente en el convento, donde se destacó por su piedad, su bondad y su humildad. Es la patrona de los casos desesperados.



Honor a María

Jesús realizó su primer milagro público porque su madre se lo pidió. Dijo "no" al principio, pero su madre le pidió ayuda. La Biblia no deja duda: Jesús escucha a su Madre.

"No se inquieten por cosa alguna; antes bien, en toda ocasión, presenten a Dios sus peticiones mediante la oración y la súplica, acompañadas de la acción de gracias. Y la paz de Dios que supera toda inteligencia custodiará sus corazones y sus mentes en Cristo Jesús"
(Filipenses 4:6).



¿Por qué permite Dios que suframos?

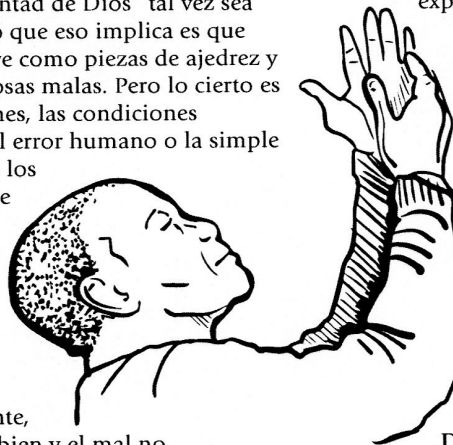
Cuando vemos que un ser querido sufre—o sufrimos nosotros—escuchar que "es la voluntad de Dios" tal vez sea insuficiente. Lo que eso implica es que Dios nos mueve como piezas de ajedrez y que suceden cosas malas. Pero lo cierto es que los gérmenes, las condiciones atmosféricas, el error humano o la simple casualidad son los responsables de lo que a menudo no podemos controlar. Es útil recordar que Dios está siempre presente, desea nuestro bien y el mal no proviene de él.

Dios está siempre presente. Nos ama profundamente y todo lo nuestro le importa, hasta los cabellos de nuestra cabeza (Mateo 10:30). Nos insta a que reaccionemos bien ante un mundo que no podemos controlar. Si le dejamos, Dios

hará posible que aprendamos y maduremos mediante nuestras experiencias, incluso si son abrumadoras o desagradables.

Dios desea nuestro bien. La voluntad de Dios no es que suframos. Las costumbres del mundo no siempre están en armonía con su voluntad. Sin embargo, el plan de Dios para nosotros es traernos el máximo bien. Nos ama con amor verdadero y quiere que estemos preparados y listos para el Cielo.

Dios no hace el mal. El mal que nosotros vemos en el mundo, Dios puede usarlo para el bien. Cuando cooperamos con él, el sufrimiento adquiere significado, la lucha vale la pena, la victoria afirma e incluso la aceptación de lo que no podemos superar trae vida, igual que ocurrió con Jesús.



¿Por qué hacen eso los católicos?

¿Por qué llaman los católicos a Pentecostés el "nacimiento de la Iglesia"?

En la fiesta de Pentecostés, el Espíritu Santo descendió sobre los Apóstoles en forma de viento y fuego. "Se llenaron todos de Espíritu Santo y se pusieron a hablar en distintas lenguas, según el Espíritu les concedía expresarse" (Hechos 2:4).



Luego los Apóstoles recibieron el poder de predicar el Evangelio y bautizaron a 3000 personas. Llamamos a esto el "nacimiento" de la Iglesia porque éste es el día en que el Espíritu Santo hizo visible la Iglesia al mundo.

Jesús entiende

"Pues no tenemos un sumo sacerdote que no pueda compadecerse de nuestras flaquezas, ya que ha sido probado en todo, excepto en el pecado" (Hebreos 4:15). Sorprende pensar que Jesús, en su naturaleza humana, experimentó miedo y sufrimiento igual que nosotros. Mejor aún, quiere ayudarnos.

Miedo. Cuando era pequeño los soldados lo persiguieron para matarlo. Sus vecinos lo amenazaron cuando no les gustaba lo que enseñaba. Soportó una Pasión horrorosa. Jesús lo



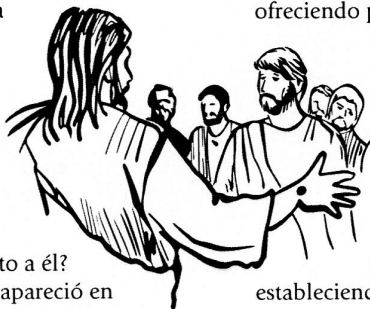
sobrellevó todo confiando en la oración, la gracia y la confianza en la voluntad de su Padre.

Sufrimiento. Durante su crucifixión Jesús estuvo enfermo, deshidratado, exhausto según su cuerpo iba decayendo. En la cruz era cada vez más difícil respirar. Jesús experimentó lo que se siente cuando el cuerpo falla. Sabe qué se siente al morir. Cuando estamos enfermos y sufrimos, podemos acudir a él pidiéndole la cura o la gracia y la fuerza para aceptar su voluntad. Sólo tenemos que pedirselo.

de las **E**scrituras

Juan 20:19-23, Jesús nos da el Espíritu Santo

Este pasaje evangélico nos da una idea de cómo la mayoría de los discípulos pasó su primera Pascua, escondidos por miedo. Temían que los romanos los descubrieran y los ejecutarán. ¿Y si la Resurrección sucedió tal como decía María Magdalena? ¿Y si Jesús venía en su busca? ¿Los castigaría por haberlo abandonado cuando deberían haberse quedado junto a él?



sus heridas como "prueba viviente" de la Resurrección. Imaginen el alivio de los Apóstoles al recobrar a su amigo. Jesús fue en su busca no con enojo, sino ofreciendo perdón.

En lugar de castigarlos, Jesús les dio una misión y el Espíritu Santo para que los ayudara. Les dijo: *"A quienes perdonen los pecados, les quedan perdonados; a quienes se los retengan, les quedan retenidos"* (Juan 20:23),

estableciendo así el sacramento de la Penitencia. Con la autoridad para perdonar los pecados, los Apóstoles y sus sucesores podían continuar la obra de Jesús después de que él regresara al Cielo.

P & R ¿Por qué lleva María un manto azul?

En el Antiguo Testamento, el Arca del Testimonio se cubría con un paño azul (o "púrpura") para protegerla durante los

viajes (Números 4:5-6). La presencia de Dios se "posaba" sobre el Arca como un rey se sienta en su trono (Éxodo 25:22). Cuando María aceptó ser la madre de Jesús (es decir, de Dios), se convirtió en su "lugar de reposo".



En el arte, el manto azul de María indica que ella es la nueva Arca del Testimonio.

El azul indica también la condición real de María. Como Jesús es el Rey del Cielo, María es la Reina Madre. En tiempos bíblicos la reina era la madre del rey (no su esposa). No era tan poderosa como el rey, pero su intercesión con él tenía significativa influencia. María no es Dios, pero sus plegarias de intercesión por nosotros son poderosas porque ella es la madre de Jesús. Cuando pensamos que María es también madre nuestra por la gracia, su manto azul nos invita a que le confiemos nuestras preocupaciones. María no es un obstáculo en el camino a Jesús, sino que nos lleva hacia él por la senda más segura.

Fiestas y celebraciones

12 de mayo – Santos Nereo y Aquileo (c. 100). No sabemos mucho de ellos, pero es seguro que fueron soldados romanos en tiempos del emperador Trajano. Se convirtieron al cristianismo, fueron desterrados de Roma y finalmente martirizados.

14 de mayo – San Matías, Apóstol (siglo I). Elegido por sorteo para sustituir a Judas Iscariote, san Matías es mencionado sólo una vez en la Sagrada Escritura, pero acompañó a Jesús y a los discípulos desde el comienzo. Vivió predicando la Buena Nueva hasta su martirio.

18 de mayo – San Juan I, Papa (526). Nacido en Toscana, Italia, Juan fue elegido papa en el año 523 cuando era diácono. Su visita a Constantinopla restauró la paz en la Iglesia Oriental aunque despertó sospechas políticas. Detenido por el rey Teodorico, murió en prisión.

21 de mayo – Solemnidad de la Ascensión del Señor (siglo I). Esta solemnidad marca el término de la misión salvadora de Jesús y su triunfante entrada en el Cielo. *Nota: En muchas diócesis, la celebración de la Ascensión ha sido trasladada al domingo siguiente.*



Nuestra misión

Proporcionar ideas prácticas que fomenten la vida en la fe católica
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
 (Salvo advertencia, las citas y referencias bíblicas son de la Biblia de la Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos o de la Nueva Biblia de Jerusalén.)