

## Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church - Weekly E-Newsletter - May 2, 2020

Good day! We have a special note from Fr. Paul and Deacon Larry this week. A copy of Deacon Larry's homily will follow in a separate email.

### **NOTE from Fr. Paul Gebhardt:**

It's been a very stressful week for me. I hope yours has been better than mine. Two of the things that have added to my stress are things that may have added to yours as well. I was hoping for a little faster restart from our Governor and I was hoping for any kind of restart from our Bishops. To be fair, several other things added to my stress this week. I can't lay the blame entirely on Governor DeWine and the Ohio Bishops. Knowing how difficult it is to plan to reopen our parishes, I don't envy the Governor and the Bishops and the decisions they have to make. I think their positions define "damned if you do, damned if you don't." As for our parishes, our staffs have discussed non-stop how we can make our worship spaces as socially distant and kept as clean as humanly possible since we finished Easter. (How to bring you the Holy Week and Easter Masses occupied our attentions during March and early April.) With each new set of guidelines, we are sent back to try it again. Trying to put between 50 and 300 people in a space while allowing social distance between family groups, moving them all into the space in less than 20 minutes; then do everything that the Mass requires, and then get them out again, all with a bare minimum of contact with each other and all surfaces and objects within the building is a truly daunting task. We've got some good ideas and some things we still need to work on.

Yes, it's stressful. And so is your life with everything you have to juggle which has also been compounded or made into something totally new by the stay at home order. Now, the restart may force you to learn a new normal again. The Governor told the graduates of 2020 that even though they forgo much this year, they can someday look back on it and say, "our sacrifices saved lives." Which may be true, but I am more interested right now that the Governor tried to help them put a positive spin on a bitter pill they have to swallow. And that's the bottom line for us all. This is a bitter pill to swallow in many regards. We can choose to grumble, whine and be bitter about it, or we can put a positive spin on it. At the end of the day, we will swallow it because we have to. This is an epidemic, that's the way the epidemic game is played. We just haven't been in the game until now.

When I'm stressed and thinking how bad I have it, I like to remember the lessons of history. In this case, all it takes is remembering that there is history. How many generations of human beings for how many centuries have lived under the constant threat of epidemics? In the Bible they talked about fevers, pestilence and plagues. If that wasn't enough, they also lived with constant fear of crop failure and famine from any number of causes. Death could come from any direction and take many, many forms. People who seemed healthy in the morning could be dead by nightfall. As dark

as that may seem it's a clear reminder, then as now, that our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. Even though I'm stressed and my life may not be as 'jim-dandy' as I would like it, I'll take my epidemic over what they had in the past. The Lord has been very kind to us, and I really have no reason to complain. We will get through this. Maybe not as fast as we would like. Maybe not as stress free as we would like. However, we will get through this. Not because Governor DeWine says so, but because our help is in the Name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

- Fr. Paul Gebhardt

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"For God, all things are possible."

**NOTE from Deacon Larry:**

Good evening, this Sunday, May 3 is World Day of Prayer for Vocations - Please pray  
VOCATION PRAYER:

Almighty Father,  
You have created us for some definite purpose.  
Grant us the grace to know the path  
You have planned for us in this life  
and to respond with a generous "Yes."  
Make our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts  
fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations.  
May our young people respond to Your call  
with courage and zeal.  
Stir among our men a desire and the strength  
to be good and holy priests.  
Bless us with consecrated religious and those called to a  
chaste single life, permanent deacons,  
and faithful husbands and wives,  
who are a sign of Christ's love for His Church.  
We commend our prayer for vocations to You, Father,  
through the intercession of Mary our Mother,  
in the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr daily for vocations this month and make it  
part of your daily Rosary.

