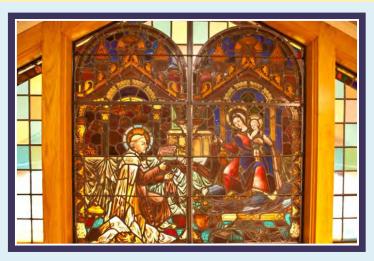
St. Simon Stock Parish

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Under the pastoral care of the Religious Community of the Alagad ni Maria (Disciples of Mary)



Sixth Sunday of Easter
MAY 17, 2020



Address	178 W. White Horse Pike
	Berlin, NJ 08009
Telephone	856-767-2563
Fax	856-767-8791
Website	www.stsimonstock.net
Email	office@stsimonstock.net
Office Hours	Temporarily Closed
	due to COVID 19 Virus

MISSION STATEMENT: Saint Simon Stock Parish is a welcoming community. Guided by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Word, Sunday celebra. on of the Eucharist is the center of parish life. Through our Baptismal call, we generously share our time, talent and treasure. As responsible stewards of the Kingdom of God, we give joyful witness to Jesus' Gospel of love.

Mass Schedule

Saturday (LIVE STREAMED)	4:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am (Private Mass)
	- 10:00 am (LIVED STREAMED)
	11:30 am (Private Mass)

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE -----856-767-1537

For information regarding First Eucharist or Confirmation please contact:

Coordinator of Children's

Faith Forma. on----- Mary Spicer / mary@stsimonstock.net

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SCHOOL856-767-1751
Cedar Avenue • Berlin, NJ / www.olmc-school.org
School Principal Mrs. Alice Malloy

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are held during the 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, the 11:30 am Mass on Sunday, and at 1:00 pm (outside of Mass) on the 1^{st} and 3^{rd} Sunday of the month. Please call the parish office or go to the website to register for Baptism.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday from 3:00 - 4:00 pm in the Church.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriages should be arranged at least one year in advance. The engaged couple will be assisted by the priest or deacon in their prepara. on for marriage. Parish Marriage Preparation Class is a requirement.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Anyone seriously ill or facing surgery, please call the parish office or speak to one of the priests directly to make arrangements for the Anoin ng of the Sick. Arrangements can also be made to bring Holy Communion to the sick and those in the hospital. Call Sr. Anne Pierre, IHM at the office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We have special programs for children and adults who would like to become Catholic or to complete their Sacraments. Please call Sue Ann Jeral, Pastoral Associate of Lifelong Faith Formation.



To my dear parishioners:

I hope and pray you are keeping yourselves healthy and safe from this COVID-19 pandemic.

I write to appeal to your generous heart to support your parish home – Saint Simon Stock. Please help our parish our reach of House of Charity Parish goal. I am passionate about promoting this campaign because I firmly believe that the House of Charity helps and supports our less fortunate sisters and brothers in need, like providing food and other necessities. We are more than 92% of our Parish goal. Please join the two hundred ninety-seven (297) families have given their pledge to support the 2020 House of Charity – Bishop's Annual Appeal. We are praying for 100% support from our parishioners and OLMC school family.

In this time of crisis, Catholic Charities Diocese of Camden is always ready to provide food and help our sisters and brothers in need. Each County in our Diocese provides food distribution. In our County (Camden), the food distribution will be on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (May 12, May 26, June 9, June 23) at 1845 Haddon Ave. Camden, NJ, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. If you know someone in need have them call 856 342 4193 to reserve pickup time.

Please click the video on how our contributions to the House of Charity - Bishop's Annual Appeal 2020 ensures the vitality of essential Diocesan ministries and programs that sustain the healing, teaching, and redemptive Presence of Jesus Christ through the Diocese of Camden.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRW36MF b52g&feature=youtu.be

Amidst this coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, let us continue to love our neighbors by supporting our House of Charity. There are several ways to help our House of Charity: (1) You can mail your check to our office (178 W. White Horse Pike, Berlin, NJ 08009), or (2) Drop your checks off in the office mailbox. For more details on how to help, please email pastor@stsimonstock.net or call 856 767 2563.

On behalf of those in need, could you consider making a pledge today. All your donation is tax deductible. Thank you for your support. Rest assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, pray for us! Saint Edward, the Confessor, pray for us! Saint Simon Stock, pray for us! God bless you and your family. Be steadfast in the faith. Stay safe and healthy.

God bless you and your family!

Be steadfast in our faith in Jesus. Stay safe and healthy.

With love and prayers,

Father Michael



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip preaches to the people of Samaria, who accept his word after witnessing the miracles he performs.

Peter and John pray that they will receive the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Christians are urged to remain steadfast in their allegiance to Christ, giving evidence always of gentleness and hope.

Gospel: John 14:15-21

In his words to the apostles at the Last Supper, Jesus promises to send them a comforter, a Paraclete, the Spirit of truth, who will be with them always.

DAILY READINGS

Monday Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4a Tuesday Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Jn 16:12-15 Wednesday

Thursday Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20 Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23 Friday Saturday Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28





SANCTUARY CANDLE

Our Sanctuary Candle this week is for healing, peace and for an end to this global COVID 19 Pandemic.

Mass Intentions for the Week

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 17, 2020

SAT 5/16

4:00 PM

LIVE STREAMED

- + Irving Motluck Req. by Wife, Dolores
- + Santa and Madeline Dangelo Req. by Josephine Dangelo
- + Amedeo Petrongolo 1st Anniversary Req. by His Family

SUN 5/17

8:00 AM PRIVATE MASS

- + Amedeo Petrongolo
 - Reg. by Ron Petrongolo & Family
- + In Honor of St. Pasquale

Req. by Ron Petrongolo & Family

10:00 AM LIVE STREAMED

- + Fr. James Dabrowski
- Reg. by St. Vincent de Paul Society
- + Lucille Johnson Req. by Marie & Joe

11:30 AM PRIVATE MASS

- + Harry Sauers Req. by Mom & Dad
- + Mary DeVaro Req. by Henry & Nora Sauers
- + Bobby Quinn Req. by Nancy DiAntonio

MON 5/18

8:00 AM LIVE STREAMED

- + Kathleen Carr Req. by Anthony & Mary
- Saponaro
- 12:00PM PRIVATE MASS

L People of the Parish (Pro-Populo)

TUES 5/19

8:00 AM LIVE STREAMED

+ Deceased Swift/Santone Family Reg. by Family

12:00 PM PRIVATE MASS

L For the Intentions of Nestor Motluck Req. by sister-in-law Dolores Motluck

WEDS 5/20

8:00 AM LIVE STREAMED

- + Carol Brever Reg. by Mike and Marcia Kopytko
- 12:00 PM PRIVATE MASS
 - + Christine Keefe Req. by Susan Simone

THURS 5/21

8:00 AM LIVE STREAMED

- + Sandee Gentile
- 12:00 PM L People of the Parish (Pro-Populo)

FRI 5/22

LIVE STREAMED 8:00 AM

- + Tran Chi Reg. by Mike & Marcia Kopytko
- 12:00 PM PRIVATE MASS

L People of the Parish (Pro-Populo)

SAT 5/23 PRIVATE MASS 8:00 AM

+ Perpetual Remembrances

4:00 PM

LIVE STREAMED

+ Karen Hinkle Req. by Cass & Marie

+ Rosalie Patane

Req. by Robert & Rosemarie Ravoni SUN 5/24 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

8:00 AM PRIVATE MASS

+Rose Martin Req. by Sandy & Allan Smith

10:00 AM LIVE STREAMED

- L Intentions of President Trump and Family
- Req. by Herb & Rosemarie Dalbow
- + Fr. James Dabrowski
 - Req. by Tony, Betty & Theresa Cipolone
- 11:30 AM PRIVATE MASS
 - + Bobby Quinn Reg. by Susan & David Polniak

SPIRITUALITY & PRAYER

To Everything There is a Season, and a Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven". (Eccl 3)

a time to bring forth new life...a time to be baptized...a time to be married... a time to welcome...a time to serve...a time to be healed... a time to die...

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY: Ssgt. Nicholas R. Luthe USAF; Sgt. Adam Cutaiar, USMC: Spc. Sean Gillespie, USA; Capt. Lewis Nicoletto; PO 2nd Russell Hagner, USN; Spc. Justin Scheuren, USA; PO 1st Class Damien Renzi, USN; Lt. Jason E. Healey, USA; SSgt. David Sigwart, USAF; Sr. Airman Maverick Marchesani, USAF; SSgt. Taylor Purvis, USAF; Sgt. Michael Franzini, USA; PO 2nd Class Michael Angelow, USN; Pfc. Amanda Sylvester, USA; Sqt. Tyler Fisher, USA; Joseph Morris III, USA; Matthew Angelow, USCG; Nadeem Sarwar, USA; Sherri Mercier; Spc. James Heisler III, USA. To add or remove a name from our Military, please call Jim Gillespie Jr. at 856-767-7999 or email gillespiejas@comcast.net and provide name, rank and branch of service.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to have a name placed on the prayer list or removed from it, please contact the office at 856-767-2563 or email Sue at sue@stsimonstock.net.

Marge Acheson Carol Adach Lillian Alba Rocco Arcaini Patricia Bailev Eileen Barclay Alberta Barody George Batten Sr. Scott Beckett Kathleen Benedetto Joyce Benedetto Richard Beppel Jr. Theresa Beppel Peg Boccella

Chrissy Reeves Breder

Patricia Brady Jennifer Britt Dennis Brown William Brown **Betty Butler** Dolores Caporelli Marie Carr Louise Cherill Tony Cipolone Catalina Clark Phil Clunk Thomas Cogliano James Connor Lorraine Contardo Shawn Copes Zachary Cromer

Mary DeSpirito Carmella Dooley & Family Msgr. Francis X. Dreger

Renee Delaney

Dawn Dentzau

Dennis Drudina Rachele, Kevin Edwards Thomas & Vada Ellison Baby Lyla Elizabeth Thomas Ellison Jr. Jack Erickson Dolores Falconi Fr. Joe Ferrara Susan Fleming

Frank Flood **Dolores Foca** Rose Fraioli Donna Gagliardi Gabrielle Garcia Terri Germano Angelina Gervasi Gail Grabowski Debbie Gutjahr Margaret Helner

John J. Henderson Patrick Hennessey

Christian Brother Richard Herlihy

Sister Jane Hill, SSJ Siggy & Maria Honrychs Michael Honrychs Denise Honrychs Marie Howard Sawver Howarth Robert Jacobs Jennifer Jansinski Baby Carter Jaroski

Bill Johns Vera Kirk

Stanley & Maureen Kochanek

Joseph Lange Carol Lee William Lees Sophia Lewis Jennifer Lionelli

Stephen Malloy, Marie Malloy

John Manes Jr. Libby Martinez Diane Maas Rosa McDermott Edward McGovern Monica McGrath Mary McKay Adele Miller Kaitlyn Miller Steven Muller Jr. Maria O'Brien Marilyn Peoples Catherine Perkins

Glenn, Shannon Pliszczak

Jeanette Piracci Frank Power

Deanna, Matthew Prichard

Amelia Reantillo Titania Redd Elwood Rulon

Jamie, Tyler & Brandon Rulon

Sammy, Sophia & Jack

Amelia Sabol

Kristina SaccoPeggy, John Sachs

Lenny Schuchman Forrest Setzer Krista Sheehan Shepherd Family Mandy Schleinkofer Alec Silovitz

Peg Skorup

Tamara & Robert Slivinski Dawn & Harry Smith & Family

Jamie Smith

Logan, Wayne Stepler Christina Sturgis Clare Sussman Helen Swanson Jason, Robyn Talucci Gerald E. Thompson

Patricia Tighe Luis Torres Jacob Turner

Michael and Shawn Valcarcel

Wildamina Vilmont Lorraine Walser

Sr. Patricia Mary Walsh, O.P.

Chick Warrington

Alicia Watkins & Savanna Kathy & Lucas Watkins Thelma Wichrowski

Rick Williams Jack Wilson Colleen Yaniak Venita Young

Lissy and Teo Zulueta



Please pray for those who have continued on their journey to the Kingdom of God:

Catherine C. Welser ~ Helen Swanson



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Reflection Stewardship Goodness 6th Sunday of Easter

"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God's will, than for doing evil." 1 PETER 3:17

The old line says, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Many *Stewards* are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes and we don't get the result that was intended or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times, we may respond negatively and ask, "Why me? I did everything right!" Here's the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In an effort to save the cost of postage, end of the year tax statements for year 2019 can be emailed to you or made available for pick up in the Parish Office. This would be a good time to update or add your email contact information. To request a statement, call the parish office at 856-767-2563 (ext. 300), and leave your name, address, phone number and email address and please indicate if you would like to pick up your statement or have it emailed to you.

Ways you can give:

- 1.Use weekly envelopes for your donations.
- 2.Parish Giving is an automated means to support our parish through weekly and monthly contributions from your checking, savings or credit/debit card account. Visit https://stsimonstock.net/Charitable Giving.
- 3.Please remember the church in your estate planning by including St. Simon Stock Parish in your will.
- 4.Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to St. Simon Stock Parish. Compared with donating cash or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction. To participate, contact the parish office at 856-767-2563.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

Please consider placing St. Simon Stock Parish in your Will so that your legacy might continue through the important works and ministries of the parish. You or your estate planer can contact St. Simon Stock at www.stsimonstock.net or call the parish office at 856-767-2563.

Please support the 2020 House of Charity – Bishop's Annual Appeal PRAY. REFLECT. SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

We help our neighbors...

...when we bring the healing Hands of Christ to the sick and dying

Your *House of Charity* gift enables our staff of Hospital Chaplains to provide comprehensive help to those in need. They administer the Sacrament of the Sick in the many hospitals throughout our area, conduct pastoral visits with patients, families and hospital staff, help coordinate the visits of parish Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and assist in a diocesan-wide effort to teach our Catholic faithful more about the Sacrament of the Sick.

"Who is My Neighbor?"

Support the 2020 House of Charity – Bishop's Annual Appeal www.camdendiocese.org/hoc

Thank you for your support and generosity. We are at about 91% of our Parish goal. There are 297 families who have given their pledge to support the 2020 House of Charity – Bishop's Annual Appeal. We are praying for 100% support from our parishioners. God bless you and your family!



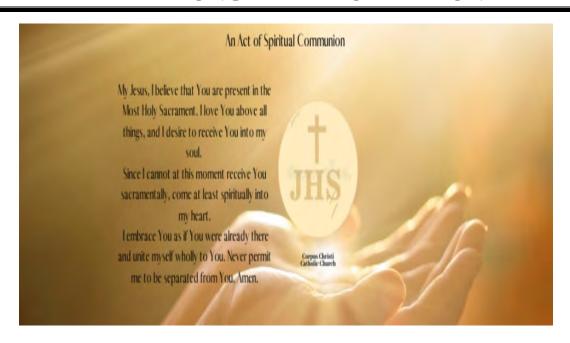
VINCENTIANS CONTINUE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Our St. Simon Stock Parish
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
will be open
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
from 11 AM to 3 PM at this time.

In addition to the hygiene, disinfecting and other health precautions already implemented, we will follow **social distancing guidelines** in our food pantry procedures to prevent person to person contact.

Our SVdP Thrift Store will temporarily close. ONLY FOOD DONATIONS can be accepted for the duration of the coronavirus emergency closings. Contact us at 856-767-7391 during pantry hours for further information.

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION





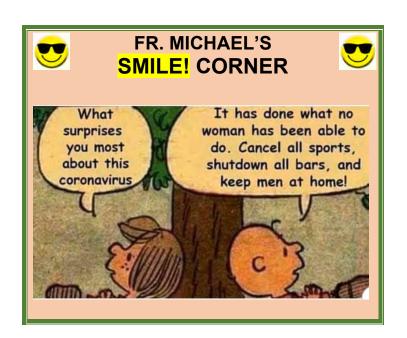
Mary Spicer Coordinator of Faith Formation 856-767- 1537 ext. 314 mary@stsimonstock.net.

FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATIONS First Holy Communions

Postponed until further notice.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

Postponed until further notice.



Day of Prayer for Humanity

Dear fellow believers and brothers and sisters in humanity,

Our world is facing at the moment a great danger that threatens the lives of millions of people around the world due to the growing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. While we reaffirm the role of medicine and scientific research in fighting this pandemic, we should not forget to seek refuge in God, as we face this severe crisis. Therefore, we call upon all peoples around the world to pray according to each one's, respective religious convictions, to observe fast and to do good deeds to end this pandemic. May each of us, wherever we are, and according to the teachings of our own respective faith traditions and philosophies, seek divine help to rescue ourselves and the entire world from this adversity, to inspire scientists to find a cure for the virus and to save the whole world from the health, economic, and human repercussions of this serious pandemic. As part of its efforts to realize the objectives of the Document on Human Fraternity, the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity proposes Thursday, 14 May 2020 as a Day of prayers, fasting and works of charity for the good of all humanity. In this regard, the Committee invites all religious leaders and peoples around the world to respond to this call together; to beseech God, the Almighty to safeguard the entire world, to help us overcome this pandemic, to restore security, stability, health, and prosperity, so that, once this pandemic-crisis is over, our world may become a better place for humanity and for human fraternity than ever before. (Adapted from the Communiqué of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity)

DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

NEW ONLINE PROGRAMMING



Three more weeks of our diocesan retreat begin on May 4! In addition to our continuing Monday and Tuesday shows, <u>Acts Afire and Faith & Family Night</u>, we're introducing several new one episode shows:

Talking Collars, May 6

Come and get to know the men of Camden Diocese in priestly formation. Join Father Adam Cichoski, Director of Vocations, as he engages seminarians in a wide-ranging conversation, including hearing and answering God's call to priestly life, the journey to serving as spiritual fathers, as well as their hopes for both the clergy and the laity.

A Night of Marian Devotion, May 7

In this month of Mary, many of us will spend additional time with Our Blessed Mother. Join Father James Bartoloma as he offers us an evening of reflection and teaching on the mother of God to deepen our relationship with her. This evening will also include the beautiful music ministry of Molly and Mike Bedics as they songs of devotion to Mary.

Answering the Call, May 13

Many across the Diocese of Camden are aware we have a host of consecrated religious and priestly orders. In this first in a series highlighting the various congregations of priests and religious, join host Donna Ottaviano-Britt as she helps us to understand the charism and calls of the Sisters of the Franciscan Renewal in Atlantic City.

Matthew 25 Alive, May 14

As all of us experience the impact of COVID 19 on our lives, our work and our ministries, what have we learned and how do we begin to think and shape the way forward. Join Matt Davis, director, Office of Life & Justice, with his guests as they explore the changes in our lives and how this helps us to see, find and serve those most in need.

Cooking with Mary, May 20

We all know the priesthood calls men to spiritual fatherhood and nourishing the laity's call to universal holiness! And, some of our priests take that even more literally as they nourish with great meals!. Meet Father Anthony Manuppella, pastor of St. Gianna Beretta Molla in Northfield, and host of a cooking show on YouTube called 'Ciao, Padre'. In this month of Mary, he is going to teach us to prepare a meal Mary likely cooked for Jesus and Saint Joseph.

A show to be named later on May 21 😉

ALL episodes are either live-streamed or released at 8 PM, M-Th on the Diocese of Camden social media:

https://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfCamden

https://twitter.com/camdendiocese

https://www.youtube.com/camdendiocese

Introduction to Lay Ministry/Catechetical Ministry

Event details



- May 5 June 9, 2020
- 6:30 9:00 p.m.
- In the comfort of your own home.
- REQUIRES internet access. Computer, smartphone, or phone connection may be used.

Introduction to Lay Ministry/ Catechetical Ministry, Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Are you a practicing Catholic who is hungry for more knowledge about Catholic teaching?

Are you in ministry with a desire to increase your knowledge about God and about the Church you serve?

CMIC—Church Ministry Institute Camden offers courses for you!

Courses are 6 weeks each. Cost is only \$60 for all six weeks. You don't need to take them in any special order; the 15 different courses are offered over 3 years.

For registration contact: Cathy Johnson, site coordinator cjohnson@christourlight.net

For registration or information contact:

Mary Lou Hughes Marylou.hughes@camdendiocese.org





Parents, Feature your Graduate in the

CATHOLIC STAR HERALD

Special Graduation Edition Visit www.Catholicstarherald.org Click on



to upload your ad information HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE COLOR AD DESCRIPTION:

Official School Senior Portrait
Small caption of 20 words
Graduate name, school and
special message
Price: \$95.00

GRADE SCHOOL GRADUATE
BLACK & WHITE AD
DESCRIPTION:

A three-line feature

EXAMPLE:

"Paul Joseph Worthington St. John, Paulsboro Mom, Dad, Alex, Suzann, Pat & Joe" Price: \$30.00 CONTACT:

Paul Worthington:

Paul.Worthington@camdendiocese.org
Neal Cullen: Neal.Cullen@camdendiocese.org

Catholic Charities Diocese of Camden

FOOD DISTRIBUTION TIMES & DATES

- Distributions include non-perishables
- Please call us as early as possible before the distribution date so that we can make arrangements for the number of boxes we'll prepare
- Please wear a mask
- Drive-through style pick up. Please stay in your car.
- Staff will place food box(es) in your trunk.

CAMDEN COUNTY

When: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays (May 12, May 26, June 9, June 23)

Time: 1:30pm-3:30pm

Where: 1845 Haddon Ave Camden NJ Call to reserve pickup time: 856-342-4193

MEMORANDUM

Lo. All Diocesan Entities

From: Father Robert Hughes, V.G.

Date: May 13, 2020

RE: Covid-19 and Updates on Diocesan and Parish Operations



As you know, Governor Murphy's executive order requiring New Jersey residents to stay-at-home has been extended until at least June 6th. The Governor is expected to announce this week a set of hard dates for the process of reopening. If this allows us to open earlier. I will notify you. Until then, please remain safe and well. Bishop and I continue to pray for all of you and appreciate the work you are accomplishing from home.

This means that the administrative offices of the Diocese (all three buildings) will remain closed through June 6th, 2020 at least. If you need to retrieve items from your office in order to continue your work from home, please notify me in advance through your department director. Please respect social distancing requirements and wear face-coverings if you need to access any of the buildings.

Parish Offices should likewise remain closed to the general public. If parish staff are needed to process financial matters or produce the parish bulletin, the pastor can have them come in as long as they are well and respect social distancing requirements.

School Offices should also remain closed to the general public. The principal is free to call in staff members and faculty so as to properly support the ongoing education of students and the distribution/collection of educational materials.

Father Rocks will be in touch regarding Confirmations scheduled before June 6th. No May Processions may be scheduled at this time. The Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass scheduled for Sunday, June 14th has been postponed. The Ordination to the Diaconate will take place on Saturday, June 13th. The Ordination to the Priesthood will take place as scheduled on June 20th. If restrictions are still in place on those dates, the ordinations will take place on these dates but with limited in-person attendance. More details will follow.

shared prayer Rod Herrera asked that the following link be as common us: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RF0DlpFOoBg&feature=share&fbclid=lwAR04s5Fg nYrAltJcbq9MqHTzmWKLsdPMr3Z 6VqIIIf-FniG7u74aZC9U

MEMORANDUM
All Priests; All Parishes; All Principals; All Schools To:

From: Father Robert Hughes, V.G.

May 9, 2020 Date:

RE: Drive-in, Drive-by and Drive-thru Activities



Several times since the beginning of the lockdown in the State of New Jersey, Bishop Sullivan has directed that parishes and school not schedule, encourage or participate in drive-in, drive-by and drive-thru activities at parish or school properties.

The coverage of these events on the news each and every day has made them seem to be the next best thing to being

You are reminded that such activities are NOT TO TAKE PLACE in the Diocese of Camden for Mother's Day blessings. May Processions or any other reason.

Just because others are doing so, doesn't make it right, acceptable or permissible for our parishes and schools do to so. In addition, there is a civics lesson in this for all of us - the Executive Order of the Governor is that the citizens of New Jersey are to STAY AT HOME except when conducting essential activities such as a doctor's appointment; obtaining groceries; or going to a pharmacy. "Drive Activities" parish and school activities do not constitute essential business.

MEMORANDUM

To: All Diocesan Entities

From: Father Robert Hughes, V.G.

Date: May 8, 2020

RE: PREPARING for Public Masses with Strict Limits on Public Gathering (PHASE 1)

<u>WHEN</u> Governor Murphy issues an executive order permitting the re-opening of various segments of society, limits on the size of public gatherings will likely be restricted to 10 people or less, although larger gatherings in "places of worship" may be permitted if strict physical distancing is maintained. It is expected during PHASE 1 that gatherings for Worship in New Jersey Mass will be limited to not more than 25% of the capacity of the church building – please note that this directive may be revised up or down as progress in combatting the virus is monitored. When official word is given for the resumption of worship, you will be notified of the specifics. This document is intended to help you prepare, plan and communicate with your parish community.

Pastors are to schedule a meeting with the parish staff to review the following directives and are required to submit a plan no later than May 29th. Given Governor Murphy's extension of the State of Emergency until June 6th, public worship is not expected to be permitted until after that date. A planning guide is provided at the end of this document.

In the Diocese of Camden, Bishop Sullivan issues the following directives to pastors and parishes for the resumption of public Masses which will become effective ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED — due notice will be provided:

- 1. The dispensation for the faithful from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days **remains effective throughout Phase I of re-opening**.
- 2. Pastors are to encourage those who are at **high risk for contracting COVID-19 to stay home**. When home visits are permitted, a priest, deacon or Eucharistic Minister may visit with Holy Communion.
- 3. The elderly and families with young children (who may find it difficult to maintain a six-foot distance from others) are encouraged to stay home.
- 4. Pastors are to remind the faithful that on any given day when they have a cough or feel sick, that they are not to participate in Mass or visit the church for any ceremony.
- 5. All parishes are **to provide hand sanitizer at the entrance(s) of the Church**. Doors must be clearly marked as ENTRANCE ONLY and EXIT ONLY (emergency doors may be employed during this time if necessary as EXITS). The faithful should not, if possible, use the same doors for entering and exiting. Pathways to and from the church must be clearly marked with tape to remind people to stay 6 feet apart.
- 6. Parish maintenance teams must regularly clean and disinfect commonly-touched surfaces in the church (<u>CDC Guidelines for Facilities</u>). Hymnals, missalettes and other materials generally left in the pews must be removed. Worship aids may be produced if necessary for one-time use. Please be mindful of copyright laws involving the reprint of music and texts. Microphones and other shared equipment also need to be disinfected.

- 7. In accord with current public health recommendations, the faithful should wear cloth face coverings when in public, including when they come to church. Surgical masks or N-95 respirators are not recommended. Cloth face coverings **should not be placed on young children under age 2**, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance (CDC Guidelines on Face Coverings).
- 8. In Phase I, a Catholic church or chapel may hold public Masses of more than 10 persons (taking account of local health guidance), as long as it maintains strict physical distancing. For a public Mass, to maintain strict physical distancing **THE FOLLOWING PREPARATIONS ARE REQUIRED:**
 - a. The faithful are to maintain a 6-foot distance from each other at all times. You may **use tape to close off rows of seating** in the church (*caution tape or colored painter's tape are recommended*), in order to guide the faithful to sit at least 6 feet from each other (for example, allow seating every third row and six feet apart in a given pew).
 - b. Members of a single household do not need to practice physical distancing with each other and so may sit together in the same row planning and identifying where families may be seated will need advanced consideration.
 - c. In areas where the faithful might stand in line (for example, waiting to go to confession; receive Holy Communion; use the restroom), place tape on the floor to indicate proper spacing between persons (colored painter's tape is recommended you may want to test whatever is used to be sure that it doesn't ruin the carpet or finish on the floor).
 - d. Station competent volunteers (wearing masks and gloves) at the entrances of the church to help "direct traffic," to ensure that the faithful keep 6 feet from each other while entering and exiting the building. Those who are assigned these duties will need to have some basic training and must be given the answers to common questions. They should also be instructed to be non-confrontational. Consider well who is chosen for these duties.
 - e. Dismiss the congregation by rows at the end of Mass to **avoid crowding at the exits** (this should be easy since Holy Communion is to be distributed at the end of Mass see below).
 - f. Encourage the faithful to maintain physical distancing everywhere on the church property (on the church steps, in the parking lot, etc.).
 - g. **Develop and communicate a plan for restroom use**: limit the number of people who enter a restroom at the same time, and place tape (*colored painter's tape is recommended*) on the floor outside of the restroom to indicate where people should stand in line to wait for the restroom, while maintaining a 6-foot distance from each other. Instructions should also be given that the **facilities are for emergency use only** given as they cannot be cleaned properly between each use. Parishioners should be reminded to use the restroom BEFORE the come to church.
 - h. Choirs are discouraged, especially if seated together. Vigorous singing, especially in close proximity to others, may increase the risk of viral spread.
 - i. Church cry-rooms and chapels are to be closed when Mass is being celebrated in the main church. Access to a restroom may be provided but no one is to be seated in these spaces.

9. FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS, THE FOLLOWING MUST BE OBSERVED:

- a. A priest with a respiratory infection of any kind should avoid celebrating public masses or administering sacraments during Phase 1. The same holds for other ministers who might serve at a Mass (deacon, lectors, musicians, sacristans, ushers, etc.).
- b. Altar servers are not to minister during Phase 1.
- c. The **priest celebrant and other ministers are not to wear masks or gloves** during the celebration of Mass. Instead, they should remain more than 6 feet from the congregation during the entirety of the Mass. In such circumstances, there is no substantial risk of infection.
- d. To the extent possible, the other ministers (a deacon, lectors and musicians) should maintain a 6-foot distance from the priest and from each other. The priest should place the missal on a stand at the chair or even on the altar when he recites the presidential prayers, rather than having someone hold the book. All ministers must maintain a proper distance in the sacristy and during the entrance and recessional processions. If necessary, given the configuration of the church, consider modifying the procession's route in order to maintain a 6-foot distance from members of the congregation. When marking the places to sit pastors must be mindful that the ends of the pews may be less than 6 feet from the center aisle where the entrance and recessional processions will take place.
- e. The offertory procession (bringing up the gifts) is to be omitted.
- f. A deacon (if present) may bring the missal, chalice, paten/ciborium, and cruets of wine and water to the altar, while the priest remains at the chair. (Alternatively, the priest could do this himself.) After the deacon moves away, the priest comes to the altar and arranges the items on the altar if not already done by the deacon.
- g. The lavabo should be done by the priest alone, without assistance, either at a credence table near the altar or at the side of the altar itself.
- h. Special provision should be made for the collection -- baskets should not be passed from person to person. Long-handled baskets could be acceptable if the ushers can remain a suitable distance from others. Baskets may be placed in central locations to receive the collection but must be monitored.
- i. If hosts for the communion of the faithful are to be consecrated, they should be placed on a second corporal towards the side of the altar. This allows the priest to prayerfully speak the words of consecration directly over the host he will consume, with the other hosts on the altar but not directly in front of the priest as he speaks the Eucharistic prayer.
- j. For the elevation of the sacred species at "Through him, and with him, and in him," if a deacon is present, he may stand alongside the priest and elevate the chalice. Since this action is brief, he need not remain 6 feet from the priest while doing so.
- k. Holding hands during the Our Father is not permitted except among family members. The invitation to the faithful to exchange a sign of peace is to be omitted.

10. THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is to be distributed **AFTER the celebration of the Mass** – this respects the symbolic and liturgical integrity of the Mass (which should be celebrated without mask or gloves); avoids any practices in the Mass that could become sources of future liturgical abuse; gives a greater freedom to the faithful to determine whether or not they will come forward for Holy Communion (some may be nervous about doing so); and also provides for additional precautions to reduce risk. It also permits the priest to remove his chasuble for the distribution of Holy Communion, given that it is difficult to launder if anyone should sneeze or cough on him.

- a. At the start of Mass, or at a suitable point during Mass, the priest should explain that those who desire to receive Holy Communion may do so at the conclusion of the Mass. He may add that the faithful are to maintain a 6-foot distance from each other as they come forward for Holy Communion.
- b. The **Precious Blood is not be distributed** to the faithful, nor should the faithful receive the Eucharist by intinction.
- c. A sufficient quantity of hosts for distribution to the faithful should be consecrated at the Mass.
- d. The priest (and, if present, the deacon) would consume the Eucharist in the normal way, but would not immediately proceed to distribute Communion to the faithful. Rather, the newly-consecrated hosts would be briefly placed in the tabernacle awaiting the conclusion of the Mass.
- e. After the concluding blessing and the dismissal, the priest (and deacon, if present) remain in the sanctuary. At the chair, the priest **removes his chasuble and the deacon removes his dalmatic**.
- f. A small table should be placed at each communion station, with an unfolded corporal and a bottle of hand sanitizer.
- g. The priest (and any other ministers distributing Holy Communion) should use hand sanitizer immediately before approaching the tabernacle. **He may also don a surgical mask or cloth face covering**. (NB: If the priest who has celebrated the Mass is in a higher-risk group, a different priest, arriving at the conclusion of Mass, might distribute Holy Communion in his place).
- h. Now vested in alb and stole (a cope is not to be worn), the priest retrieves the newly-consecrated hosts from the tabernacle and returns to the altar.
- i. Holding up a single host, he says: "Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." He then leads the people in saying: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed."
- j. The priest (and other ministers if present) proceeds to the place prepared for distribution of Communion. Each stands next to a table with corporal and hand sanitizer in order to distribute Communion.
- k. The faithful should remove any face coverings **before coming forward** for Holy Communion.

- I. Holy Communion may not be distributed with gloves, nor may it be received in the hand if a member of the faithful is wearing gloves. During Phase 1 the faithful are encouraged to not receive Holy Communion on the tongue. It is forbidden to use tongs or any other implement for the distribution of Holy Communion. A pastor/priest may instruct those who wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue to wait until the end since more hand purification on the part of the priest may be required.
- m. If the priest, deacon or Extraordinary Minister touches the hand or tongue of the person receiving Holy Communion, they should place the ciborium on the corporal and proceed to sanitize their hands before distributing Holy Communion to the next individual.
- n. At the conclusion of the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest (and any other ministers) return the remaining hosts to the tabernacle.
- o. The faithful may depart after making a brief prayer of thanksgiving using only the EXIT doors and maintaining physical distancing volunteers may be required to assist in giving directions.
- 11. The ban on DRIVE-IN, DRIVE-UP or DRIVE-THRU Masses remains in effect for all parishes in the Diocese of Camden.
- 12. Parishes are **not permitted to schedule additional Masses** beyond the regular Sunday Mass schedule. One or more Masses may continue to be broadcast via live-stream.

OTHER CONISDERATIONS – the following may be done beginning on the same date when public Masses are once again permitted.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants – Pastors may begin to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism keeping in mind the requirements for physical distancing. With the exception of twins or multiple children in the same immediate family, baptism is to be celebrated for one child at a time. A bowl of water may be brought from the baptistery to the center of the church in order to facilitate the participation of those gathered but who must remain at a distance from one another. New water is to be used and blessed for each baptism. Only the parents of the child may approach the font with the priest or deacon for the actual baptism. Priests and deacons are reminded that they must wash their hands in between baptisms and that the sacred oils should be dispensed in small quantities so as to not contaminate a larger container. NB: The new Order of Baptism of Children is mandated as of Easter Sunday.

Easter Sacraments – the baptism and/or reception into full communion of those who were prepared for the Easter Vigil is postponed until the Fall. Bishop Sullivan's Office will provide further information about a suitable date or dates for these celebrations.

Sacrament of Confirmation – In PHASE 1, the celebration of Confirmation will not take place. Father Rocks will be in touch with further information when that becomes available.

Celebrations of First Holy Communion – Pastors may celebrate First Holy Communions but must observe all of the protocols in place for PHASE 1 (including the limit of no more than 25% occupancy in the church).

Sacrament of Matrimony – Pastors may celebrate weddings in accord the protocols in place for the celebration of Mass. These protocols are likewise to be applied when a marriage is celebrated outside of Mass. If a wedding needs to be celebrated before restrictions are lifted, please contact Father Hughes for permission and instructions.

Sacrament of Penance – all current precautions and protocols regarding the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance remain in place. **DRIVE-UP confessions continue to be prohibited.**

Funerals – Pastors may celebrate funeral Masses in the parish church as long as all protocols for physical distancing are applied. Funeral directors will need to explain the limits on the number of people who may be in attendance and the requirement that they wear masks. All attendees are to be seated BEFORE the liturgy begins. The presider alone may conduct the rituals at the doors of the church prior to the entrance procession. If Mass is celebrated, Holy Communion is to be distributed AFTER Mass and the prayers of Final Commendation. The faithful are to then proceed directly to their cars. The funeral directors can attend to the casket in the recessional procession.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick – all current precautions and protocols remain in place.



MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests; All Parishes

From: Father Robert Hughes, V.G.

Date: May 7, 2020

RE: Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

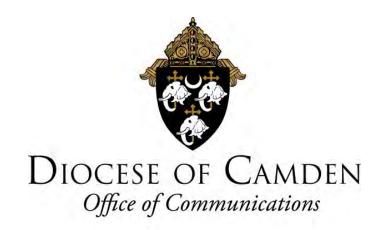
A meeting of the bishops of New Jersey took place via Zoom earlier today. In that meeting, the bishops agreed that the observation of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord would be transferred in the Province of Newark from Thursday, May 21 to Sunday, May 24th (replacing the Seventh Sunday of Easter).

There was a robust discussion about the importance of holydays and there is no intention to make this a permanent change in the liturgical calendar of the Province of Newark. The transfer is for this year only; and was made to ease the burden on those who are required for live-streaming Masses and in light of the dispensations already provided in all five dioceses from the obligation of the faithful to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holydays.

Please inform your parishioners of the change and make note that Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter are to be celebrated as such and in accord with the prescriptions of the Roman Missal and the Lectionary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Closure of Catholic Schools for Remainder of the Academic Year



The following memorandum was sent to all priests and school principals of the Diocese of Camden earlier today by Fr. Robert Hughes, vicar general of the diocese, on behalf of Bishop Dennis Sullivan:

On Saturday, March 14, 2020, Bishop Dennis Sullivan issued a statement temporarily closing all Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Camden effective Monday, March 16, 2020. In his statement the Bishop noted that the schools likely would be closed for a minimum of two weeks.

Given Governor Murphy's executive order closing schools in the State of New Jersey for the remainder of the academic year, Bishop Sullivan extends the closure of all Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Camden through June.

Catholic high school and eighth grade Graduations will take place on the dates already scheduled, but will likely take the form of a "virtual graduation". Further directions on graduations and other year-end activities will be provided to principals by Dr. Bill Watson, Superintendent of Schools, and the Office of Catholic Schools.

Students and families are encouraged to follow the directives from the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services as we continue to work together for the common good, to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and prevent further infection.

Bishop Sullivan is well aware that closure of our schools for the rest of the academic year places an enormous burden on parents and will be challenging for families. At the same time, he is impressed by the creativity of all involved in bringing the classroom into the living rooms of our children across the Diocese.

Please continue your prayers for the health of our students, their families, our dedicated teachers, administrators and staff members, and for all people as together we face the deepening effects of this worldwide pandemic.

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