



ST. DENIS Parish

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LOVE GOD LOVE OTHERS TRAIN DISCIPLES

Eucharistic Celebrations :

Sunday, **March 29th** private mass – Romain & Gabrielle Bazin (C & A Furet)

Friday, **April 3rd** - 9:00am – Adoration and reconciliation

Private Mass - 10:00am – Lauraine Picton (funeral collection)

Sunday, **April 5th** - private mass – Andrew Labossiere (Pierre Cormier family)

Father Peter will continue to celebrate masses daily in private to the intentions requested by parishioners.

Sanctuary Lamp – this week: **Janice Souque**

Collection: Please note that the collection will not be reported until the end of each month. Thank you to those who continue to contribute to the parish despite the circumstances due to the coronavirus.



Readings for Sunday: April 5, 2020

Isaïe 50.4-7

Psalms 22.7-8, 16-17, 18-19, 22-23 (R.1)

Philippians 2.6-11

Matthew 26.14 – 27.66

Prayer Intention for March, 2020

Catholics in China – We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

- For our pastor, Fr. Peter, in his ministry among us.
- For the conversion of Christians, especially those of our parishes.
- For the protection against the coronavirus COVID-19 epidemic.



Fifth Sunday in Lent (A)

- *March 29, 2020*

Words from Fr. Peter to parishioners of St. Claude and St. Denis,

Brothers and sisters,

This is the second week we live without Sunday communal Eucharistic celebrations in our two parishes. It is sad because **“the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life”** (LG 11). As I often say at the beginning of each Sunday Mass: “As Christians, we are blessed because each Sunday we have an important appointment with God and with our brothers and sisters. After a hard-working week, we gather in our parish church, the House of the Lord to give Him praise and thanks for all blessings we have received from our gracious, generous and merciful God. Especially, through the Eucharistic celebration, we receive the Word of the Lord and the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ as spiritual food for our souls as we continue our journey of faith towards the heavenly homeland”.

We are living in times of difficulties and uncertainties due to the coronavirus pandemic. Self-isolation, fear, stress, unemployment, panic buying, no public Masses... In short, we are coping with the situation that we have never experienced before. As Christians, this is a good time for us to discover and rediscover the meaning of life, to discern what the most important things in our lives are, and to re-examine our relationship with God, with others and with nature.

We are coping with a lot of challenges at present moments, but we are not alone. St. Paul invites us to **“give thanks to the Lord in all circumstances”** (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Remember that God is always with us. Jesus said: **“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid”** (Mark 6:50). He promised to be with us always, to the end of the age (Mt 28:19). The words of Jesus give us great consolation and peace when our hearts are troubled at present moment. More than ever, we are encouraged to spend more time to pray, to develop our personal relationship with God because when we have God, we have peace.

We pray for the leaders of nations as they strive to work for the common good of all. We pray for all doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for our brothers and sisters who are suffering from sickness, unemployment, and struggling with their faith.

We pray also for the repose of souls of those who have died from the pandemic. May they rest in peace!

The Long Road to Faith



The Gospel this Sunday recalls events concerning Lazarus' resurrection. In fact, there are 800 words in this Gospel and approximately only 40 relate to this specific resurrection. This event is preceded by a long discussion of more than 700 words that are more than a simple prelude to the miracle that Jesus performed. What was the conversation during the journey from Galilee to Judea? What details describe the passage from disbelief to belief?

The Gospel begins with a dialogue between Jesus and his disciples (Jn 11:3-16). The latter did not understand Jesus' reaction and questioned why Christ would not immediately go to Lazarus' bed and cure him? Why would Christ say that Lazarus was only sleeping? Why would Christ want to go to Judea where his enemies were waiting to kill him? All these issues were discussed. The disciples resigned themselves to following him though they believed it could be a journey to death: *Let us also go, that we may die with him.*

Jesus and his disciples arrived at Lazarus' home. St. John then provides us with more details: this time the conversation between Jesus and Martha, a disciple and Lazarus' sister. (Jn 11:20-27). Martha manifested her faith in an event that would take place at the end of time. Jesus invited her to believe not only in a situation, but in a person: *I am the resurrection and the life.*

Then follows a third dialogue (John 11:28-35) with Mary, Martha's sister. She made the same comments to Jesus as Martha had: *Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.* In Mary's mind, death had occurred and there was nothing that could be undone: Jesus had arrived too late. People were exceptionally emotional and were crying. As St. John recalls, Jesus was *greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.* He acknowledged their suffering but also the weakness of their faith since no one had truly grasped Jesus' identity as God's Son.

These lengthy dialogues conclude with a remark by the Jews that expressed their lack of comprehension: *But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"* (Jn 11:37). Nobody mentioned resurrection as they believed that death was final. Finally Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. This was only a sign, a precursor to the great revelation of Easter. Christ has conquered death; his death was and is a passage toward God's life.

In a time of fear, sorrow and uncertainty like now, God is our hope and peace. Open our hearts for Jesus so that he transforms us by his love and mercy. Now is a very acceptable time. God is always with us. We need to open our heart to welcome him, to trust in Him.

It's never too late to return to the Lord. Lenten season gives us a time of grace to pray, to fast, and do the works of mercy in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

Some announcements to share with you as follows:

- Please follow our parish Facebook pages: "Paroisse Saint-Claude Parish" and "Paroisse St. Denis - Haywood Parish" for updated information.

- Our church is open each day of the week from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM to allow individuals to come and pray. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will run from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM every Friday in Haywood.

- All Masses are cancelled until further notice. So you can watch daily Mass, and Sunday Mass on TV. In our archdiocese, every Sunday morning, Masses will be celebrated by His Grace Albert LeGatt, and will be broadcast LIVE onto the Archdiocesan Facebook page. Mass time: 9:00 - In French; 10:30 - In English

- You can receive the Holy Communion spiritually by saying this prayer:

"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."

In addition, I encourage you to pray the Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy for an end to the coronavirus pandemic and for the conversion of heart of all Christians, especially our loved ones in our parish.

I will be available at any time if you wish to receive a visit or a sacrament such as Holy Communion, Confession or Anointing of the Sick, or if you want to talk, please contact me at the parish number at 204-379-2434 or call me directly at 204-952-4531.

You are in my thoughts and my daily prayers! May the Lord keep you safe and healthy!

Fr. Peter Le

Georges Madore

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli