



Catholic Church Community of
St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788-4221

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



Parish Mission Statement:

St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church is a parish community striving to share the Spirit of Love through Prayer, Worship, the Sacraments, the Teachings of the Church, and our concern for others through Christian Stewardship.

Contact Numbers

Rectory

631-234-5551

FAX 631-234-6412

Religious Ed

631-234-0397

FAX 631-234-1199

Outreach

631-234-3149

FAX 631-234-1199

Website: <https://stmli.org>

Social Media

Facebook: StThomasMoreHauppauge

Instagram: stm_church

To receive texts or emails
from us just text

Spiritoflove to 84576 or

sign up @

StThomasMore29.flocknote.com

Masses for this coming week

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Colossians 3: 1-4

John 20:1-9

Saturday, April 11

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

7:30 pm—Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 12—Easter Sunday of the

Resurrection of the Lord

8:00am Easter Mass Remembrance & Easter Flower
Donors

9:15am Easter Mass Remembrance & Easter Flower
Donors

10:45am Easter Mass Remembrance & Easter Flower
Donors

12:15pm Easter Mass Remembrance & Easter Flower
Donors

Monday, April 13

9am Jack Keenan & Gerry Cusack *by the family*

Tuesday, April 14

9am Maureen Murphy *by the Colino family*

Wednesday, April 15

9am Janet Mallen *by Marie & Carmine DiLullo*

Thursday, April 16

9am Frank Sesti *by the Sesti family*

Friday, April 17

9am Judy Granville *by the Granville family*

Saturday, April 18

9am People of the Parish

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

5pm James J. Murphy *by the Hauppauge Fire
Department*

Sunday, April 19—Second Sunday of Easter

(Sunday of Divine Mercy)

8:00am People of the Parish

9:15am Lelia Espinal *by the Calcagni family*

10:45am Kathleen Berganski *by Brian Eyring,*
Lee Brennan *by Betty Ann & Joe Codispoti,*
Angelo Maldari *by Joann Eyring,*
Charles Stepanek *by Peggy & family,*

12:15pm Theodore Munkel *by Kathy Moore*

Growing through the Sunday Scriptures

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Acts of the Apostles 2: 42-47

Psalm 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20: 19-34

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John::

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

But he said to them,

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

FR. ANTONY'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

HAPPY and BLESSED EASTER.

The first Easter was on that Sunday Morning when Jesus rose from the dead. When the women went to the tomb, they found it empty. They saw an angel at the tomb saying to them that Jesus is risen. When our Deacons and I celebrated the Easter Vigil we had the same feeling... Jesus is Risen and the church is empty.

Emptiness is negative if we doubt what is going to happen. But in the light of Easter, emptiness means that something unimaginable, something bigger than Death, the RESURRECTION is taking place. Though the virus has made us stick to our homes and made all public gatherings (even the gatherings of worshippers) empty, let us try to live the moments like Easter-people in HOPE and MIRACLE that can happen by all that we can do in good faith, that is, the great Healing in our social distancing and in praying in our families and receiving God's grace of Healing in body, mind and soul.

Thus Easter announces the time of Spring not only in Nature but also in the Soul. Nature that went to sleep during winter is springing up with new life. Likewise Easter, the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus from death, awakens in us the Hope and power to live a New and Everlasting life. For those who believe in Jesus, every moment of living is a moment of hope and newness. Especially at the time of the Corona virus the words of St. John Paul II invite us to celebrate Easter in encouragement and enthusiasm. "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Hallelujah our song."

Let us come out of our fear and anxiety. Let us begin to live the fact of concern for each other. Let us face the moments of fear with faith. Let the words of Dwight Moody empower us to spring up with the mood of the Spring-time. "We are told to let our light shine and if it does we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining –they just shine." Let us shine. Let us catch the revelation of Jesus in His resurrection. Let each of us not say merely 'Christ is Risen,' but 'I shall rise.'

On the lighter side especially at this time when we are stuck in our homes I just want to share with you some humorous lines my friend emailed to me..

- Homeschool day 1: wondering how I can get this kid transferred out of my class.
- This is the day dogs have been waiting for. They realize their owners can't leave the house and they get them 24/7. While dogs are rejoicing everywhere, cats are contemplating suicide.
- I wonder if God got so mad about all of our fighting down here that He sent us to our rooms!
- Don't know why my fishing buddy is worried about the coronavirus, he never catches anything!

Happy and Blessed Easter... I pray for you all and for each member of your family...

Lovingly
Fr. Antony

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Antony Asir, Pastor
Deacon Robert D. Weisz
Deacon Edward R. Vigneaux
Deacon Matthew T.J. Surico
Religious Education
Mary Ellen Carroll, Director
Parish Outreach
Staffed by volunteers
Music Ministry
Emilia Savarese, Facilitator
Youth Ministry
Dan Haggerty, Youth Minister

OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL LIFE**EUCCHARIST**

Weekend Masses: Saturday: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 9:15am, 10:45am, 12:15pm
Weekday Mass: 9am, Monday through Saturday.

BAPTISM- As soon as your child is born, please call the Parish Office to make Baptism arrangements. Preparation session and welcoming Mass attendance are required.

MARRIAGE- As soon as a couple decides to marry, and BEFORE making any other arrangements, call the Church Office to schedule an appointment with the Parish

Office or one of the deacons.

RECONCILIATION- Celebrated in Church every Saturday from 4pm to 4:45pm, or by previous appointment with Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK- Call the Church Office to request visitation of the sick.

CONFIRMATION- Those who have not been confirmed should call the Parish Office to receive further information.

HOLY ORDERS- Contact the Parish Office for more information about the priesthood or diaconate.

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Envelope users: Please enter the amount of your donation in the space provided on the envelope. This will greatly help us when counting the collection and for recording your contribution.

St. Thomas More Parish needs your support now more than ever! Join the parishioners who are using Faith Direct for automated giving to St. Thomas More Parish. Faith Direct offers a safe and secure way to donate to our parish in this time of uncertainty. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY227, or text 'Enroll' to 631-250-8141. You can also make a one-time gift by texting a dollar amount to the same number.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,
Fr. Antony

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land.

Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

Please Be Generous!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday

THE RCIA NEEDS EVERYONE

Just as it takes an entire village to raise a child, it takes all the gifts and talents of a loving and prayerful community to make a committed Catholic Christian.

THEREFORE

We invite ALL Members of St. Thomas More to join us in praying for those who are now on their journey to the Easter Sacraments. We are called as baptized members of St. Thomas More to lead those who express a desire to become full members of our community.



Shown here are Zhiping Fennekohn and her sponsor Joanne Leocadi and Anthony and Rick Vigo at the Catechumens (those who need Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) Rite of Election at St. Anne's on March 1, 2020.

Additionally, the Candidates (those needing only Eucharist and Confirmation) Marissa Abram, Eric Abram, Aiden Lepore, Nina Latchman, and Cynthia Leon went through the Rite of Continuing Conversion here at St. Thomas More on March 8, 2020.





PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pamela Brosnan, Walt Drechsler Jr., Rosemarie Flore, Marilyn Gast, Gail, Laurie Holmes, Jean Marsala Kieffner, Lauren Lossani, Joan Nachtman, Pat O'Connell, Mary Ann O'Gara, Maura Reddy, Rosalie Rocchio, Peggy Stepanek, Richard Tulipan, Chase Turano, Andrew J. Valentine, Andrew M. Valentine, Rosalind Warmuth, Diane Weisz, Janet Weil, Don Wieman, Pat Yezek, Ashley Zabelsky

Please re-submit names of those people you wish to put on our Sick List.

This listing will expire on September 30, 2020.

Tune into "**Religion and Rock**" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7:00 AM-8:00 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island's East End.



Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 PM on *Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Chanel* and at 11:00 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117.

This Sunday's theme is **Triumph**, don't miss it!. Next Sunday's Theme (April 19) is **Issues in Life**. To listen online or receive more information regarding **Religion and Rock** go to www.ReligionandRock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on *ITUNES*.

Don't forget to tune into CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 or visit www.cfntv.org

I would like to thank all our parishioners who have so faithfully been mailing their contribution envelopes to support our parish. Thank you also for your donations for Easter, the Easter Flowers and the Easter Mass Remembrance. You and your loved ones will be prayed for during our Easter novena. We also appreciate your Holy Land (Good Friday) offering in response to our Holy Father's appeal.

God Bless and keep you safe. We are praying for you every day.

Fr. Antony



PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

For all those who have succumbed to COVID-19, our deceased loved ones and our deceased service men and women.

USING FAITH DIRECT? - It's quick and easy! Consider having automatic deductions from either your checking or savings or use a credit card to support St. Thomas More each week. With Faith Direct, there is no fee to you! Please visit the Faith Direct website at www.FaithDirect.net to sign up: our church code is **NY227**. You may also use the form located where you obtain the bulletin or text the word **ENROLL** to 631-250-8141. We thank you for your support.

UPDATING CREDIT CARD INFORMATION—If you get a new card or a renewal card, make sure that this information is communicated to Faith Direct.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES—If you do not receive weekly envelopes and would like them mailed to you, please use the cut out that is in the bulletin and indicate that you wish to receive them on a regular basis. Usually it takes about two weeks for your request to be completed.

MAINTENANCE COLLECTION

We thank you for your support of our parish project to maintain our parish facilities. If you would like to help, please use a maintenance envelope where you obtain the bulletin.

CEREAL BOX TOP COUPONS—Drop them off in the Church lobby drop-off box and we will use them to buy things for the students in our regional school.

USED CELL PHONES—We thank everyone for giving us their old cell phones. We forward them to a convent that recycles them and uses the proceeds for the poor.

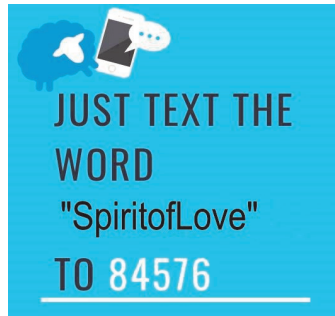
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS—You can check online for any updates at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/stmreled>.

HOLY FAMILY REGIONAL SCHOOL, Commack, New York—Grades Nursery through 8th Grade. You may contact the school at parents@holyfamilyregional.com to schedule a tour of the parish's regional school, or visit the school website at www.holyfamilyregional.com

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bernstein	John Karies
Jessie Bernstein	Michael Knipper
Joseph Blaugrund	Dylan Kowalski
Anthony Broncatello	Thomas LaFemina
John Burk	Alex Lombardi
Collin Busto	Andrew Lombardi
David Chester	Lt. Clint Lorance
John Chester	Scott Lovelock
Nicholas Chester	Andrew Lynch
Theresa Chester	Troy A. Maida,
Collin J. Crean	William Maley
Eddie Cullum	Thomas Migliara
Eric Cullum	Tim Morris
Adam Cussen	Ryan Murphy
David Cussen	John Nachtman
Capt. Sean Michael Dolan	Kaitlyn Nachtman
P. J. Erskin	Thomas Nichols
Timothy Fallon	Adam Papaizai
Major Michael Fantauzzi	Michael Poist
Nicholas W. Flanary	Michael Polanski
J.T. Foltz	Kyle Rathje
Mike Foltz	Antonia Marie Rivera
Michael Gioia	Ann Karen Sanchez
Carl F. Greiner	Justin Schneider
Philip Gudone	Christopher Sidor
John Michael Haffner	Christopher Singer
Sean Hendrikson	Ryan Smith
Tylor J. Hickey	Michael White
Kevin Ilyichenko	

Would you like to receive a daily spiritual reflection during Lent or updates of what's happening in our Parish? See below or go to StThomasMore29.flocknote.com



JUST TEXT THE WORD "SpiritofLove" TO 84576



Flocknote
Keep in touch with us
VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE



This Spring, couples who have been married fifty years will be honored at a Mass on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Smithtown. Mass will begin at 2:00 p.m., Bishop Robert J. Coyle will preside. Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at the rectory. Space is limited; registration will be accepted on a first come first served basis. The forms can also be found on www.drvc-faith.org. If you have any questions you may call 516-678-5800, extension 223.

CALENDAR CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations!

Here are the winners from April 5—8 2020

4/5/2020	50	\$50	Marilyn Miller
4/6/2020	877	\$25	Joan & Pat Shea
4/7/2020	128	\$25	Al Pankus
4/8/2012	837	\$25	Frederick Hegner
4/9/2020			Holy Thursday—No Drawing
4/10/2020			Good Friday—No Drawing
4/11/2020			Holy Saturday—No Drawing



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

"Today religious liberty is more likely to be carelessly discarded as a special interest than faithfully upheld as a fundamental human right."

Patrick Ryken, President of Wheaton College

A Theology of Religious Freedom

Religious freedom, the right of man to follow his conscience, is rooted in the nature of God and the nature of man. It is God's original design for humanity.

"God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness' (Gen 1:26) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27)

Therefore, human beings are created for relationship with God and God desires relationship with us. But a relationship with God can never be coerced or forced. Authentic relationships must be entered into freely. So, God Himself has given human beings freedom to embrace or reject him. Therefore, God's basic design for humanity gives rise to religious freedom. (1) (p.21)

Being made in God's image means, among other things, that we reflect what God is like through our creativity, capacity for reason, sense of moral responsibility, and ability to make choices. Being made in God's image means we're created with a unique capacity to enter loving relationships with one another and with God Himself. (p.24)

This, ultimately, is the origin of religious liberty. We can't have an authentic relationship with God unless we have the freedom to embrace or reject Him. And if God Himself doesn't coerce us, how much less should the government. When the government tries to prevent us from freely relating to God - it is elevating itself above God and violating the created order. (p. 28)

Hence, religious freedom requires that the government, within reasonable limits, leaves religion alone as much as possible. (p.38)

(*Free to Believe*, by Luke Goodrich (1); Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version, 2nd Edition)



CIRCLE OF WOMEN

It is the mission of the Circle of Women Book Group to focus on the spiritual influence of contemporary writing that facilitates our own reflections of God's action in our daily lives.

Our next meeting which was supposed to be on April 13 2020 has been postponed.

The book **Educated** by Tara Westover—Facilitator Aurelie Miller-Hendry has been re-scheduled for October 12, 2020.

For further info. and/or to register, call Marilyn at 631-234-5805 or Joan at 631-234-1739.

SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL

Websites

www.stmli.org

<https://stmyouth.wixsite.com/stmyouthhauppauge>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreHauppauge/>

Instagram

stm_church

- stmreligiousd
- stm_yg

Email

Rectory:

rectory@stmli.org

Mary Ellen Carroll:

mecarroll@optonline.net

Outreach:

outreach@stmli.org

Dan Haggerty:

youthminister@stmli.org

Altar Servers Ministry:

altarservers@stmli.org

Personal Prayer

SpiritualOrientations.com

To contact a member of the Pastoral Council use the following:

Barbara & Joe Fratamico at

BJFRAT@optonline.net

CALENDAR CLUB WINNERS

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4/5/2020	50	\$50	Marilyn Miller
4/6/2020	877	\$25	Joan & Pat Shea
4/7/2020	128	\$25	Al Pankus
4/8/2012	837	\$25	Frederick Hegner
4/9/2020			Holy Thursday—No Drawing

PARISH OUTREACH
“Give us this day our daily bread”



Outreach continues to serve our neighbors, especially with the new COVID 19 mandates which have closed schools for 2 weeks. Outreach will remain open to provide food for those in need. If you know of a family who is in need, please let them know that we are here to help.

We continue to need donations from our generous parishioners and greatly appreciate all who are able to help. Donations can be dropped off at Outreach or left in the bins in the church narthex.

We continue to pray for all those affected by the virus and all the medical professionals who are working diligently to heal and help those who are sick.

Outreach is open Monday to Thursday 10 AM to 1 PM
Phone: 631-234-3149

Everyone Counts – Census 2020

Census Day is April 1. This means when you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

The census is still ongoing. With the current situation due to Covid 19, it is more important than ever that people self-report online or by phone. You can fill out the census for your household at www.2020census.gov even if you have not received your invitation and census ID number. Just enter your address to begin. You can also respond by phone at 844-330-2020.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice. It is then that we are truly Easter people!

Your conference of SVdP wants to thank you for being Easter people for our neighbors in need throughout the year

Happy Easter to All!

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

— Adding a name Request —

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE PARISH LISTING OF THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Name of person (s) who is (are) ill:

Relationship to the person who is ill:

Person making the Request:

TODAY’S DATE:

(Please place in collection basket or drop off at Church Office)

CHURCH MINISTRIES

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A LITURGICAL MINISTER OR WANT TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS?

Please complete the following form:

I would like to volunteer in the following parish ministry:

- Altar Server Hospitality
- Usher Greeter
- RCIA Liturgy with Children
- Lector Eucharistic Minister
- Consolation Minister Landscaping/
Planting
- Rosary Altar Society Pre-Cana
- Caring for Altar Plants FOCCUS
- Adult Lending Library Banner Committee

Name::

Address:

Phone:

Please return to the Rectory for processing.

2019 CONTRIBUTION REQUEST

I/we would like a record of our 2019 contributions to St. Thomas More:

NAME(s)

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-mail:

Please return to the Rectory for processing.

REGISTRATION and/or ENVELOPE REQUEST

NAME(s):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

I/we would like to register in the parish.

Please send contribution envelopes.

I am already registered in the parish but do not receive contribution envelopes. I would like to receive them.

Other _____

(Please return in collection or return to Church Office)

St. Thomas More Employment Services

*Are you presently unemployed and looking for a part-time or full-time job? * Do you have or know of any job openings? If so, call our Employment Services Office, 234.4629 and leave a message for Mae Devine or call Mae on Monday mornings. Calls are kept in strict confidence.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Aides at Home Inc. Home health aides and personal care aides— part & full time. Will provide free certification training. Call Suzanne Dunn at 516-641-2273.

Cablevision - Account executives sales for potential customers—canvassing assigned territory— Excellent benefits. Understand state of the Art Digital Video - PC skills - outstanding benefits. Residential Account Executive— 4 days, 12-9, Sat. 9-6 —canvassing assigned territory for potential customers, follow up leads from customer contacts.

Catholic Charities—many positions both full time & part time available— check Employment Bulletin Board outside Walden Hall for complete list.

Per Diem Driver—Chemical Dependence Services—Commack

Catholic Health Services of LI 1) Openings-Client Services-Patient Financial Systems & several others. Competitive Benefits.

2) **Superintendent Helper Male** Central Islip Condo-Windbrooke Homes drivers lic., \$13.00 per hr.—15 hrs.

Geico Insurance—Sales reps, mgt. trainees, claim services reps. —750 Woodbury Rd, Woodbury, NY. 9am –3pm, M-F, Open House, but apply on line first. Valid Photo ID required.

Healthcare Opportunities -

1. Good Samaritan Hospital, 631.969.8200

2. Mather Hospital, 631.476.2774

3. Brookhaven Hospital, 631.447.3708

4. Maryhaven, 631.474.4120, X212 - Contact Maryhaven directly

New Beginnings Pre School in Hauppauge—needs an Infant and a Toddler Teacher—631-360-0039

Newsday Media Group--Account executives for sales. Excellent benefits including matching 401K

Newspaper Delivery—Excellent 2nd income—early AM hours—car & valid NYS license.

Panera--Now hiring FT/PT Associates, Bakers and Shift Supervisors.

School Bus Drivers—Flexible hours—Bus Drivers. & Van Drivers. Excellent Benefits-Call now for training. Retirees welcome.

7-Eleven--Owner is a member of St. Thomas More--Multiple positions - PT- minimum age 17. Students welcome.

ShopRite Supermarket--Various positions open; apply on-line or go to ShopRite in Hauppauge.

Suffolk Bus Drivers--Suffolk Co. Bus Company hiring drivers. Contact Suffolk Bus Company.

St. Catherine of Siena—

1. **Nursing Home**—Nurse Practitioners, RN supervisors, Recreation Therapists, FT/PT nights, P/T days and weekends, Rehab PT/ FT—dietary;

2. **Hospital**—Lab Technologist & Medical Lab assistant. Physical Therapists

3. **Physical Therapy Aides**—PT/ Sport Services, Hauppauge. Mon. thru Fri., days and evenings.

4. **Nurse Manager**—MRI techs, CT techs, Lab techs.

The Garage—Drivers & Delivery—To deliver orders PT.

US Census Bureau—Census takers for the 2020 Census.. Paid training. Flexible hours, \$23.50 per hr. Contact 1-855-JOB-2020.

See “Civil Service Notice” posted on the bulletin board for future Civil Service Exams. For more information about any of the listed positions please call 234-4629. Note - All babysitting, infant child care, nanny, home care aides, etc. positions are in the child’s home. References are required for all of these positions including nursing aides, home health care aides, etc. It is the responsibility of the employer to check all references prior to hiring.

****We have a list of names of those willing to baby-sit in their homes.

****We have a list of certified tutors for all Grades.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

None of us could have imagined even weeks ago, that we would celebrate Holy Week and Easter Sunday *virtually*.

I have been amazed and inspired by the creativity and initiative of our pastors, our people and our parishes to continue evangelizing all of Long Island.

Whether it is video-streaming Masses and Eucharistic adoration, conducting a virtual parish mission, or a health precaution sensitive Eucharistic procession through neighborhoods, you are all moving forward and trusting in the transformative power of the Risen Christ as we continue to experience the tragedies, trauma, unemployment, financial and economic distress of the COVID-19 crisis.

The light that streams from the glorified wounds of the Risen Jesus always touches and transforms our wounds and fears, and the wounds and fears of the world.

We remember in a special way this Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season the souls of those who have died from the corona virus and their families, and those who, as Pope Francis says, are “writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, deacons, religious men and women and so very many others.” We remember our families and the efforts of each of us to care for our families and our neighbors.

While we are all in pain that our Holy Week 2020 needs to be a virtual one, we do have a Pastoral Letter, *The Great Week: A Pilgrimage with the Lord in Holy Week* which can help strengthen, lift and inspire our virtual Holy Week celebrations.

This Pastoral Letter is a user-friendly, easily understandable synthesis of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum, its liturgical theology, spirituality and history, designed to show the relationship between the Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week and Catholic Evangelization.

I encourage everyone to participate in all the Holy Week liturgies virtually through the Catholic Faith Network (see: catholicfaithnetwork.org for details) and through your own parishes streaming the liturgies.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Let's take this unique and virtual evangelization opportunity to pray that the Risen Christ might lead a massive return of Catholic Long Islanders to a full, active and conscious participation in our Holy Week liturgies and our Sunday Masses throughout the year.

I encourage you all to read and pray our Pastoral Letter which is available on our diocesan website DRVC.org and in the March 2020 *Long Island Catholic* magazine that many of you received at home.

I also had the opportunity on March 27, 2020, to share the Pastoral Letter with every American Bishop in the United States for possible use in their dioceses as they celebrate virtual Holy Weeks around the country.

I received an email from the Bishop of Fairbanks, Alaska. He thanked the Diocese of Rockville Centre for sharing the Holy Week Pastoral Letter with the people of Fairbanks, Alaska and said: "We have 37 remote parishes of Native Alaskans, pretty much on 'lock down' that could benefit enormously from the Pastoral Letter."

Catholic Long Islanders stand in the solidarity of the Risen Lord with Catholic Alaskans! This is just another example of the global Catholic solidarity that our Holy Father Pope Francis models for us and calls us to.

Thank you for continuing to support your parish and the vital ministries of our Church as your means allow during this most challenging time for all of us. The Church continues to serve the spiritual and physical needs of people during this crisis. Weekly collections mailed or given online will be critical to the sustaining and reemergence of our parishes.

Our Easter joy may be delayed this year, but our faith, hope and trust in the power of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection must shine brighter than ever. The cross of this crisis offers us the opportunity for a renewed and lasting appreciation for the gift of family and the transformative power of faith.

Know that you and all your families are in my heart and in my prayers as we celebrate *The Great Week*, Easter Sunday, the Easter Octave, Divine Mercy Sunday and the Easter Season.

He is Risen! Alleluia!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre