

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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**May 10, 2020 ~ #8 Letter**

**Readings: +Acts 6:1-7 +1 Peter 2:4-9 +John 14:1-12**

*Dear Parishioner...Around & About Ste. Rose*

**The Sunday Offering for May 3, 2020**

The Sunday Offering: \$11,613.00, Easter: \$161.00, and Ascension: \$199.00 for a total of **\$11,973.00**. Thank you so much for your generosity during this COVID 19 pandemic. Some parishioners have used the [www.diospringfield.org](http://www.diospringfield.org) for their weekly/monthly parish support. The parish did receive from the diocese a report of each contributor; however, the diocese is charging a “service fee” as was reported on the first report. I encourage those who have used the diocesan website to send their contributions directly to the parish through either the USPS or by hand delivery to the Pastoral Center and inserting the envelope(s) through the letter slot in the door. Again, thank you all for your financial support of your parish during these extraordinary days of COVID 19 isolation.

**Fr. Shannon Scholarship Application date extended**

Due to COVID 19 the Fr. Shannon Scholarship application deadline is now June 30, 2020. With the closure of all school systems throughout the Commonwealth, acquiring transcripts may prove to be more time consuming. Hopefully, the committee will be able to meet in July and award scholarships to worthy applicants.

**Staffing During COVID 19**

The Pastoral Center continues to be “officially” closed to the public. However, the staff arrives at the center on an “as needed” basis. Should you have a need to telephone the P.C, please leave a voice mail to whomever you wish to speak, and a response will be made. Emails are also being reviewed. We are making every effort, with reduced staffing, to keep up with requests while staying safe at the same time.

**Mass Intentions**

Since the cessation of public Mass, Mass intentions have not been fulfilled. All Mass Intentions will be rescheduled upon the resumption of public Mass. Only once these Mass Intentions are rescheduled will the parish resume scheduling Mass Intentions for future requests. The primary reason for not fulfilling these intentions is because family members often prefer to be present at Mass for the intention of their beloved dead.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Diocese of Springfield continues to abide by the guidelines from Governor Baker. By following these guidelines “we” intend to assist in our responsibility to ensure the good health and well-being of each another. Please stay home as much as is possible. Wear “a mask” when in public especially when social distancing is not an option. These days of isolation are becoming wearisome; however, in those States where there is a “re-opening” the COVID 19 virus is once again spreading. The City of Worcester, Massachusetts appears to be the new “hot spot” for the spread of COVID 19. Though we are all tiring of the “stay home” guideline it is so important to follow. While there are some clergy and deacons who wish to perform more pastoral ministry, it is the recommendation of Bishop Rozanski to maintain a reasonable approach to the ministries of the Church during these days of pandemic. The reality of this is simple: COVID 19 is still being studied as to its genetic make-up, how this virus truly spreads, and what length of time the virus will be present. There are more theories than scientific facts concerning this virus. As most of the clergy in our diocese are over the age of 65, the risk of contracting COVID 19 is real for the clergy as well – including myself as I am now 66 years old! Together we will get through this! Let us pray for each other that we may persevere!

## Mother’s Day 2020

*Mother’s Day 2020 is going to be the most difficult Mother’s Day that we have ever experienced. For those who are so fortunate to have their mothers still present in their lives, we know what a blessing they are in our lives. Mother’s Day celebrations during this pandemic will be subdued at best. With social distancing and home isolation many personal visits or dinners will not take place this year. Perhaps Mother’s Day celebrations may be through the technology of either “facetime” or “Facebook!” Our top priority this year ought to be **“to keep you, our mothers, safe!”** For those younger families who are living with their mothers today during this time of staying at home – how blessed you are! For those older families, whose mother is isolated – we your children hold you dear in our hearts and long to be in your presence once again. For those families, whose mother has entered into eternal – we thank you for your life filled with love and enduring memories.*

*With that said, I wish all Mothers a very happy Mother’s Day today! Though many of us cannot be together as we would prefer, you will be in all our thoughts and prayers! We, your children, thank you for the miracle of life and of love you have*

*bestowed upon us. May you, our Mothers, take consolation as did Mary when she was separated from her Son.*

*Happy Mother's Day!*

***Fr. Bill***

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