

April 5 & 12, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you have all been doing well, or as well as can be during these unique times we are living in. The parish staff, and I (Fr. Jason) have been well. Although we cannot come together during this Holy Week and celebrate our great feast days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter in person, we, united in Jesus' Most Sacred Heart, where together through the life, death, and resurrection of our Saviour will find our true hope, fulfillment and ultimately the lasting joy and peace we all so greatly long for. Remain in His Sacred Heart during these days. Together, each in our "isolation", in our seclusion, let us be one with Jesus during these Holy Days; placing our hearts in His Sacred Heart. I wish you all a most blessed and grace filled Holy Week and Easter!

Recently during a powerful moment of prayer with the Pope and Catholics all around the world, who joined as one heart in prayer to God; the Holy Father gave a very profound reflection which I would like to share with all of you:

Reflection by Pope Francis

"When evening had come" (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus' attitude. While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he stands in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the

disciples in a reproaching voice: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus' trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38). Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: "Do you not care about me?" It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people's souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly "save" us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!".

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: "Be converted!", "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your

judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one” (Jn 17:21). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we flounder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to

rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. Is 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. 1 Pet 5:7)

- *Pope France; Urbi et orbi, March 27, 2020*

During these difficult days be assured of my prayers for you, and together let us pray for all those effected by this virus, and for its swift end! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to e-mail me: fatherjppiper@gmail.com

To note for those who have mass intentions booked; although the masses will not be publically celebrated, be assured that I will be celebrating a mass for each intention on the scheduled day of the intention

ANNOUNCED MASSES
April 4- 19, 2020

Saturday	April 4th	Saint Isidore Father Russell Schultz and Father Brian Moon – RIP – by Anne Marie
Saturday	April 4th	Sunday Vigil Dominic D'Souza – RIP – by the family
Sunday	April 5th	Passion Sunday Ernie Morelli – RIP – by Frances and family <i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday	April 6th	NO MASS
Tuesday	April 7th	Weekday Regino and Rex Crodua – RIP – by Cecille and family
Wednesday	April 8th	Weekday Albana Durinzi – RIP – by her sister
Thursday	April 9th	THE LORD'S SUPPER (Last Supper)
Friday	April 10th	THE LORD'S PASSION (Good Friday)
Saturday	April 11th	RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (VIGIL)
Sunday	April 12th	RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Maria E. S. Melo – RIP – by Connie <i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday	April 13th	NO MASS
Tuesday	April 14th	Easter Octave Gerardo and Ildebrando Lanzaderas – RIP – by the family
Wednesday	April 15th	Easter Octave Yolanda Amaro Manzanal – Birthday Thanksgiving – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Thursday	April 16th	Easter Octave Albert A. Piper – RIP – by Linda Piper
Friday	April 17th	Easter Octave Olivia Limson Ventura – Birthday Thanksgiving – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
Saturday	April 18th	Sunday Vigil Rose Mangahas – RIP – by the family
Sunday	April 19th	Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy) <i>Pro Populo</i> Julia Mary Pizzardi – RIP – by the family

SAINTLY PRAYER: by St. Teresa of Avila

Let nothing disturb you
Let nothing frighten you
All things are passing
God never changes
Patience obtains all things
Who possesses God lacks nothing
God alone suffices.
Amen.

PRAYER

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.
Bring a swift end to this coronavirus.
Heal the afflicted, comfort the fearful,
and have mercy on those whom you have been called from this
life.
Amen.
Our Lady of Fatima; pray for us!

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.

STAY INFORMED:

Currently the situation regarding parish activity hasn't changed since our last announcement: **all public Masses, and all activities / events / classes / meetings are to be suspended** until further notice.

The Archdiocese of Montreal has set up a webpage where they will post updates and info, regarding the actions taken by the Archdiocese, in response to the coronavirus as things unfold:

<https://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/covid-19>