

Dear St. Columbkille Family,

"Life is not waiting for the storm to pass, it's learning to dance in the rain." - Vivian Greene

I love that quote because those words ring so true for the state of the world right now.

"They say that knowing is half the battle. But the most important part is the opposite... NOT knowing what's going to happen but trusting that you'll figure it out with the help of God is most important."

Welcome to our pandemic weekly e-news. Mother's Day, like many other holidays is going to be different this year.

The holiday is usually celebrated with family outings to brunch, spas or family get-togethers in homes—and accompanied by plenty of in-person hugs and kisses. But as the coronavirus pandemic restricts where we can go, and makes social distancing a new norm, many of these traditions will have to be postponed to another year.

This doesn't mean Mother's Day has to be canceled this year. On the contrary: Younger children may have been seeing even more of their moms than usual this spring, as school cancellations added home schoolteacher to mothers' (and fathers') list of duties.

Many young adult children who fled big cities to shelter in place back home may find themselves unexpectedly celebrating at mom's house. For older adult children whose parents are in independent or assisted living communities, spending time with mom in person—or bringing the grandkids for a Mother's Day visit—may be completely out of the question, due to community restrictions.

Whatever your situation is, there are plenty of opportunities to make this Mother's Day one she'll always remember. Here are a few examples of how families can show their appreciation and gratitude to mom this year, in ways that are both safe and simple. First, do not gift a face mask, not this day; consider a house plant; support her hobbies; put together a memory keepsake; spend virtual time together, a visit/tour, a music or a prayer; write an actual letter with your greatest confession of love; decorate a front door of the house or room; find a way to remind her how God has used her in procreating, teaching and guiding; thanks her for all sacrifices and ask to forgive misbehavior may have occurred. If your mom is in God's hand, visit a cemetery/memorial garden or a place she may be resting, if possible and do something she loved to do in memory of her.

As Christians following the catholic tradition, we have the gift and blessing of the Blessed Mother Mary and through her intercession we can offer a Rosary for our mothers. Don't miss the opportunity to experience the power of your faith in a new and different way you never expected. Remember that with all our formation, preparation, training or education any kind, the final meeting with God the Father is absolutely unknown for us. Remain positive and joyful, watchful and prudent as we walk through this unprecedented experience.

For all St Columbkille parishioners, fulltime or part time, the courage of our patron saint must inspire us wherever we may be, let us remain united in faith and prayer. Our children and grandchildren must find from us an example and testimony for what they are going to face in the future.

Here are some updates about our parish. Now we are open, from Monday to Friday, from 8:30 to 12noon. The church for personal and private prayers, keeping the social distancing and using hand sanitizers available in the sanctuary. The Parish Office for any concern and spiritual/sacramental assistance. All food donation can be brought to the church lobby (narthex).

Saturdays from 8:30am to 10:00am a priest will be available for confessions under the portico. Once you get to the driveway, turn off the engine and lower you window. One person in the car.

Sundays from 9:00 to 12noon a priest will be available giving the Holy Communion under the portico. Do not exit your car, lower you window and extend you hand to receive the sacrament.

If Sacrament of the Sick is needed, you can call the office and one of the priests will assist you.

Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Dewane from the Catholic Center in Venice each day is at 9:15 a.m. at: <https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofVenice/>. Please note, you do not need a Facebook account to view the Mass. Also, the Mass is accessible on the homepage of the Diocese website at www.dioceseofvenice.org.

Bishop Robert Barron “Word on Fire” has added a link to his Daily Gospel Reflections so you can watch daily Mass online. It is celebrated at his chapel, and the video, which lasts less than 30 minutes, includes a brief homily. It is an alternate opportunity to hear daily Mass during this time of the coronavirus. <http://dailycatholicgospel.com/>

Mass from the Diocese of Venice can be seen on Fox4 on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Florida Catholic has suspended print production for the month of May. However, our ministry will continue as we are offering our e-edition free of charge throughout May: <https://digital.thefloridacatholic.org/Florida-Catholic-05082020-e-Edition/VE-1/>

All mass intention scheduled in our Parish are offering in private mass by one of the priests.

God Bless and keep you during these trying times, and may the Devine Mercy bring new life and hope to each of you!

Fr. Lorenzo

www.stcolumbkille.com