

## **NOTE FROM FR. JOHN**

April 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

We continue to hold our own at the parish. I pray that all our families are well. Many thanks for your nice notes with your Sunday envelopes. Jeanne LiMarzi and I are on top of the usual parish day-to-day business. One question that comes up with some regularity: when will we have first communion and confirmation? Assuming the school year resumes in the fall on schedule, we are looking at October for the administration of both sacraments. Bishop Walsh has contacted me and is willing to accommodate a date for confirmation at our convenience. Because of the many variables involved, we cannot provide a more specific date at this time.

1. This week, in Catholic New York, I provided some reflections on the death of my classmate Msgr. Richard Guastella, pastor of St. Clare, in Staten Island. Also, this week, in an email, the diocese announced that seven parishes will be open for pastors: Harrison, Hastings, White Plains, Mamaroneck, Staten Island, Chester, and Manhattan. My gut tells me that more will become open in the next 3 months. How we will fill these is anyone's guess. As Bette Davis once said:  
"Fasten your seat belts, it's going to be a bumpy night."
2. Some financial updates: [a] Our Easter collection, so far, is \$11,800. I am sure more donations for Easter will trickle in. Our normal Easter collection for the past 3 years hovered around \$25,000. Thank you to everyone who is trying to keep up with their envelopes. [b] This past week we submitted our application to Tompkins Bank for \$28,400 for the Payroll Protection Program. We received the full amount within 2 days. [c] Last Friday we received a check from the diocese for \$2655 for exceeding our Cardinal's Appeal goal last year. Our goal this year is \$48,500. Thus far, we have \$28,890 pledged. I know that for many parishioners, at this time, the Appeal is not a priority, but if you can see your way to make a pledge, remember, our parish can benefit as well.
3. On a lighter note, prior to the suspension of masses on March 15th, an unknown donor placed in the collection each week a \$20 bill configured in origami as a bird. It was perfectly executed. I assume it was done at home and simply dropped in the collection basket. I would hate to think that it was fashioned during my sermons! While this origami twenty requires a little extra work to prepare it for a bank deposit, it is nonetheless most welcome.
4. This past week we had a demonstration of a more professional tech set-up to live stream our Sunday mass. I am waiting for the proposal from the firm that made the presentation. Remember, at present we are simply using a cell phone to live stream! As a consequence, lighting and volume may not be optimum. Considering the low-tech equipment we have available, I think we have made great strides with the help of our liturgical ministers (Sarah Haase, Roberta Ruppel, Anne and Jim Holland) since the suspension of masses on March 15th.

5. Thank you to all who forwarded information on potential housekeepers. I will be working on that this week.
6. As I sit in the rectory, I have a direct line view of our flag flying at half-staff. It serves as a constant reminder to me that not only over 55,000 families have lost loved ones, but that so many are out of work and trying to make ends meet. Please remember our food pantries and the employees of the local shops we normally frequent. Many of us are spending less (restaurants, gas, entertainment, etc.). Those that serve others can use the help.
7. I cannot even imagine what it is like to be a nurse, doctor, or hospital worker who must report for duty each day. The same is true for first responders, food service workers, postal employees, delivery personnel, funeral directors, etc. Please keep them in your prayers. Yes, they have jobs. But they also assume greater risks.

**Almighty and Eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress, in faith we pray:**

**Look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders, and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your name. Amen.**

**CARDINAL'S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2020:**

**As of 5/1//2020**

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>Donor Goal</u>
\$48,000	\$29,790	71	130

**To make your gift online, visit [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org).**

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS:** Reminder: Please do not tape or staple the envelopes. Just seal them. The tape or staple causes problems with D. P. Murphy when they calculate the envelopes. Thank you so much!

**ANYONE IN NEED OF ASSITANCE?** Please contact rectory at 914-631-0529 if you need help during this difficult time (food shopping, etc.).