St. Clare Parish
Apr. 19, 2020

A Catholic Community guided by the Holy Spirit
to proclaim Christ’s love in worship, service and life-long learning.

Church
8535 SW 19th Ave  Portland, OR  97219       503.244.1037
Office Hours:      Monday - Thursday, 8am - 12:30pm & 2 - 4pm
office@saintclarechurch.org       www.saintclarechurch.org
Pastor Fr. Don Gutmann 101
Business Manager Shelley Worrell 102
Pastoral Associate Pia de Leon 103
Faith Formation Coordinator Dcn. Bill McNamara 104
ECHO Apprentice Andie Bodary 105
Administrative Assistant Laurie Zupsic 100

School
1807 SW Freeman St  Portland, OR  97219       503.244.7600
info@stclarepdx.org       www.stclarepdx.org
Interim School Principal Jeananne Bloudek
Administrative Assistant Donna Parker MacNeur

Preschool
1812 SW Spring Garden St  Portland, OR  97219      503.244.5458
nancy@stclarepreschool.org
Director Nancy Melzer
Administrative Assistant Jeanne Raffety

Sacraments - Please visit www.saintclarechurch.org for more information on sacramental preparation.

Daily and Weekend Masses are currently canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
To view pre-recorded Sunday Masses with Fr. Don Gutmann, go to www.saintclarechurch.org.

Reconciliation Saturdays with Fr. Don Gutmann from 4pm-4:30pm in the church. Social distancing will be practiced.
Matrimony Six month preparation required. Contact Fr. Don Gutmann.
Adult Confirmation & How Can I Become a Catholic? Contact Pia de Leon.
Baptism, 1st Eucharist, 1st Reconciliation & Confirmation? (Children & Teens) Contact Deacon Bill McNamara.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US

Whether you are a long-time parishioner and need to update your information or newly arrived in the parish and not yet registered,
please complete the information below and place in the offertory basket or mail to the parish office.

Name: ___________________________________________ Phone: ( ) ________________________________
Address: ________________________________________ City: ______________________________ Zip: _______
I New Parishioner       I Returning Catholic       I Moving (please remove from parish directory)
We certainly had a unique Holy Week this year, everyone staying home, watching our worship from the comfort of your couch or ??? This pandemic reminds us all that we can be flexible when we need to. Many of you have had to make big changes in your life the past few weeks, we’ve had to do that here at church as well.

Here’s some of what has been going on at church lately:

- Our preschool is closed but continues to keep the kiddos connected to their classmates and teachers through various online activities. The preschool teachers are being very creative, even finding ways to keep the smallest kids connected.

- We have sent in our application for the Paycheck Protection Program (part of the $2 trillion federal government rescue package), hoping to get a forgivable loan for payroll for the preschool teachers. We don’t want to have to lay anyone off. Parents (and some parishioners without children in the preschool) have been very generous to donate to the preschool. This helps us cover payroll there while there isn’t any tuition coming in since the kids aren’t on site.

- Our school jumped into online learning immediately when the governor declared all schools to be closed. I am SO IMPRESSED with the way our teachers have adapted from classroom learning to online learning. That’s a huge shift and they’ve done really well, and they continue to develop better and better ways of doing this.

- Kuddos to all our students and their parents for adapting to online learning also. It’s a big change for everyone, but they are doing it. It is disappointing that the school will have to stay closed for the rest of the year, but I understand the governor’s reasoning for doing that.

- We continue to communicate with our high school Confirmation candidates. Confirmation was supposed to be this weekend. Obviously, that will be rescheduled after things get back to normal. We are also staying in touch with our 1st Communion students. Their special day will have to be rescheduled as well. Our RCIA candidates are receiving plenty of inspirational material online to help them. Andie stays connected with our Youth Group kids.

- Our St. Vincent DePaul food pantry is busier than ever. THANK YOU to all those volunteering there and to all those who are donating food and funds!

- We continue to offer the weekly church bulletin by email or at our website. We will continue to offer our Sunday Masses on the website and also continue the mid-week “Holy Moment with Fr. Don.”

We may not be able to offer public Masses but St. Clare Church, School and Preschool certainly haven’t closed down. Things are going full speed ahead here. We have a terrific staff and all are working well together (at a distance!).

I miss you all, and I really look forward to seeing you all again. Let’s keep praying for one another.  ~ Fr. Don
Weekly Reflection
Sunday of Divine Mercy
Apr. 19, 2020

Have you ever experienced awe? Awe is commonly defined as a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder. A moment of awe has the ability to lift us up out of ourselves and immerse us into something that causes us to wonder about ourselves, the meaning of life, and truth. Awe is an experience of connection that links us to something that is beyond the normal happenings of life. For us who believe that the resurrected Christ is present in all of life and the totality of the universe, being touched by awe can lead us to exclaim, “My Lord and my God!” Pondering the vastness of God’s presence also brings us to a profound sense of God’s mercy, which is the showering of His unconditional love on each of His daughters and sons. When we internalize this mystery, we may find ourselves standing in awe once again and feeling an intense sense of peace.

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Spiritual Resources

COVID-19 may have slowed us down as a spiritual community, but we still need to nourish our souls and spirits. Please consider the resources below . . .

The YouTube video of pre-recorded Sunday Mass at St. Clare will be uploaded to www.saintclarechurch.org each Saturday by 4pm. Just click and join Fr. Don for Mass.

The Archdiocese of Portland has information on Masses livestreamed from the Cathedral (including those on Sundays at 11am) and other area parishes at: https://archdpdx.org/live-masses

Check out these links to view other celebrations of the Eucharist, daily, and on Sunday:
https://www.ewtn.com/tv/shows/sunday-mass-live
https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/daily-readings
https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops offers links to online Mass from the Vatican and churches throughout the country, prayers, readings, and other resources at:
https://catholiccurrent.org/covid19/
http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/usccb-president-reflection-and-prayer-during-coronavirus.cfm

Missing the Catholic Sentinel? See the new online version at www.mysentinelnow.org.

Magnificat is now offering complimentary access to its iOS and Android Apps at www.magnificat.com/free and MagnifiKid’s weekly booklet, a Sunday missalette for children ages 6-12, at www.magnifikid.com/free. Both available through May.

Note from Pia de Leon . . .

Bishop Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and one of the founders of Word on Fire, has come out with a couple of videos of his homilies for the last Paschal Triduum. These are some powerful and prophetic messages about the truth of the Cross of Christ and the realness of the Resurrection. They will leave you in deep awe and wonder. Check out the links below or you can or go to YouTube and search Bishop Robert Barron’s Good Friday and Easter homilies.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOGvkVovSmo
https://youtu.be/8qW45nEJJHw

Mass Intentions

Prayed privately by Fr. Don
Saturday, Apr. 25
+ Lorraine Digregorio + Domenico Digregorio
Sunday, Apr. 26 & Monday, Apr. 27
Leonor Lewis (Happy 95th Birthday!)
Believing was a challenge in the early church, just as it is now. The first Christians struggled with how to understand the ongoing presence of Jesus. They came to know that they needed to be signs to others — to witness to and demonstrate peace, forgiveness and mercy. We have not seen him, but we have seen signs of his presence in others. Perhaps more importantly, others must see signs of his presence in us. Presence is mysterious and profound. When we experience it, we are called to pay it forward as we have received it.

United in Prayer  ~  Lord Hear Our Prayer

For all Christians, that we may be authentic signs of Christ’s resurrection to others . . . we pray to the Lord.

For all nations of the world that are still battling many forms of war, may they soon see an end to them and have peace in their land and in their hearts . . . we pray to the Lord.

For all those who have been wounded by poverty, racism, homophobia, or any kind of hatred and prejudice, that the wounds of the crucified Christ remind them they are not alone in the fight . . . we pray to the Lord.

For all people whose lives are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, that they may understand in their hearts that Christ is alive and caring for them through others . . . we pray to the Lord.

For the parishioners of St. Clare, that we embrace the truth that the Resurrection deploys us to the mission lands of our homes, work and social networks, beyond the walls of the church building to proclaim God’s love . . . we pray to the Lord.

For the sick and the suffering in this community, especially Sally Leake and for those who have died, especially Mary Alice Judy . . . We pray to the Lord.
How to Pray the Chaplet . . .

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy combines the Rosary with some extra prayers asking God for mercy on us and the whole world. For directions on how to pray the chaplet, visit:


Follow along at 3pm daily at KVBM 88.3 FM Radio.

The Story of Divine Mercy

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young women, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come.” ©LPi

During these uncertain times, pray this phrase from The Divine Mercy Chaplet 10 times at 3pm each day ~

“For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion, Have Mercy on Us And on the Whole World.”

To Learn More …

Visit www.formed.org and search Divine Mercy to find 14 different resources. If you are a 1st time user, insert parish code J7N7CD on the registration page.
This week, we hear a story in the Gospel (JN 20:19-31) about Doubting Thomas. So what is that all about?

What is one of the first things that a teacher does at the beginning of the school day when class is in session? She or he most likely takes attendance to see who is in class. The teacher makes a note of who is absent, so she can let you know what you missed in school that day. Do you check in every day now that you are learning online?

Today, we heard that Thomas was absent when Jesus came to greet his good friends after He rose from the dead. Perhaps, Thomas was sick or afraid to meet up with his friends. They were so happy to see Jesus! The next time Jesus' friends saw Thomas, they told him what he missed. They saw Jesus – He is Alive! Thomas didn’t believe them. (He knew like most people knew that Jesus died on the cross and dead is dead.) He said to his friends: “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger in His side, I will not believe!”

The next week, Thomas was present with his friends when Jesus came again and stood in their midst. Thomas saw and came to believe! He was so excited that he cried out loud, “My Lord and My God!”

Even though we are now absent like Thomas from being present in church to worship with our friends, we can still gather as a family, watch Mass on our computers and read the scriptures together. One of the great promises Jesus made was, “When two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with you.” So don’t miss out on an opportunity to gather, hear stories, worship and see Jesus’ presence in those we love.

Let us pray: Dear Jesus, my Lord and my God, come into our house as we gather together in your name. We ask You to be with us. Amen.
From Pia de Leon, our Pastoral Associate

Stay Home, Write your Thoughts, Share your Story

During these times when we are being asked to practice self-isolation and social distancing and we cannot gather at Mass, parishioners are being encouraged to share a thought or story about their experiences. For example...

• How is home schooling going?
• What creative things are you doing to combat the loneliness brought about by isolation?
• Are there people you know who have inspired you to “not be afraid?”
• Are you reciting a special prayer?

Share your stories in 200 words or less.

This is our way of connecting our parishioners with one another so we can continue to be community during these unusual times.

Willing to share?

Email your stories to pia@saintclarechurch.org or mail them to St. Clare Church 8535 SW 19th Ave Portland, OR 97219 or call Pia at 503.244.1037 x103.

Stay Home, Write your Thoughts, Share your Story

May the Lord keep us all safe.

Reflection by Mila Maskell
Liturgical Assistant & Longtime Parishioner

My typical day alternates between poetry and prose.....

Broken clouds – the sun breaks through anyhow --
The morning starts – eyes open –
Birds, already singing for hours, are quiet. The shower, warm but fresh and brisk, brings brightness to the new day. Morning tea – hot, black, sweet - tasting somewhat odd against the toothpaste. It warms the mouth -- wakes up still sleeping buds. Clothes go on And the day begins.....

What will happen today? Will life miraculously return to normal? Will a vaccine against COVID-19 be found?.....

Feed the cats, meowing for their food. Walk the dogs, joyful and eager to greet the new day. For them, no thoughts of sickness or death or sorrow.

For me, quiet anticipation and hope -- The TV giving daily updates of the invisible enemy. Brave souls laboring selflessly, Caring for the sick and the dying. No time to grieve.

For me, a mixture of pride and fear for my sister in Georgia -- Retired at 74, a trauma nurse -- Called back to action by a hospital overwhelmed with patients -- Back to duty --
Tending the sick, Comforting the dying -- Holding their hands so that they don’t die alone.
No time to grieve.

Twelve-hour days – Go home to safety – decontaminate -- Fight again on the morrow.....

GOD, SHIELD MY SISTER FROM HARM.....

For me, a ray of sunshine – Meet friends and their dogs at the park -- Give virtual hugs and kisses – Joyful in each other’s presence, so rare nowadays.

Social distancing, better yet, physical distancing – Six feet apart -- neighborhood news, a semblance of normalcy –
Masks & gloves on, Looking like invaders from outer space – But no need of alien invaders, With the coronavirus among us!

At home, send cheerful cards to assisted living residents,
Touch bases with Small Faith Sharing Group –
Virtual visits with loved ones.

BE WELL. BE SAFE. HAVE FAITH.

The day follows its unfailing course -- Straining without conscious thought toward broken clouds.

Alone at home but not lonely, Praying alone but together in spirit with our parish family, Feeling deep joy in attending Fr. Don’s online Masses, Finding profound peace in reading the Gospels.

Cautious but not scared, Hopeful, prayerful, faithful, Taking comfort in God’s boundless love, Falling asleep with St. Augustine’s prayer on my lips....

O Lord,
Shield your joyous ones,
And all for your love’s sake.

AMEN.
Current Food Pantry Needs
• Canned Oranges & Fruit Cocktail
• Canned Carrots, Peas, Corn & Mixed Veggies
• Jars of Jellies & Jams
• 1# Bags of Brown Rice
• 1# Bags of Dried Beans, Lentils and Split Peas
• Toilet Paper
• Deodorant
• Shampoo
• Other Personal Hygiene Items

Donations may be placed in the food basket on the front porch of the parish office.

* Please check dates to ensure foods have not expired.*

Dear Parishioners,

During this time when there are concerns about exposure to and the spread of COVID-19, Online Giving is a convenient option to continue to support St. Clare Parish. Even though we are worshipping from home, vital donations can still happen. Visit www.saintclarechurch.org on your computer, laptop or mobile device. Click the Online Giving link and begin making weekly, monthly or one-time gifts.

Another option is to mail your donation to us at St. Clare Church 8535 SW 19th Ave Portland, OR 97219.

Your contributions will help sustain our parish during this difficult time. If you have any questions, please contact shelley@saintclarechurch.org.

Thank you as always for your generosity,
Shelley Worrell, Business Manager

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Goal for FY 19-20: $8,481 needed weekly to fund the current programs, personnel and facilities of the church.

Easter Collection through 4.12.20 not included in totals = $720.
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