

# Catholic Parishes of Onaping Falls and Cartier

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## Newsletter for the week of March 29, 2020

**In compliance with the shutdown ordered by Premier Doug Ford, all parish properties, including the church itself, the parish hall and the office will be closed for a minimum of two weeks.**

If there is anything you need, please leave a message at the office. If it is of an urgent matter, please contact Fr. Joseph at 705-920-1514

The following masses will be celebrated **privately** by Fr. Joseph as they were previously requested for these dates or the bulletin was already issued before the Diocese made the announcement of the closures.

If you would prefer to have them celebrated after the churches open, this can be arranged with no extra stipend required.

### **St. Bartholomew :**

Saturday March 28 – Gerald Golden by Evelyn, Jim & family

Sunday March 29 – Mass for the People

Saturday April 4 – Anita Black by Rose & Ray Primeau & family

### **St. Francis Xavier :**

Sunday March 29 – Robert Gauthier by Lynda Boulanger

Sunday April 5 – Mass for the People

### **St-Étienne/ St. Stephen the Martyr :**

Sunday March 29 – Ray & Cathy Morgan by James Morgan

The Parish 50/50 Draw will proceed as planned. If you have not yet purchased your ticket and wish to do so, please call the parish office or contact us by e-mail. Our contact information can be found at the top of this newsletter.

The Catholic Parishes would like to thank the parishioners who have continued to make their weekly donations. Your continued support and generosity at this very difficult time is truly appreciated!

***If any gifting imposes a level of hardship of any kind whatsoever, please do not donate.***

If you are able to donate during this time, please consider one of the suggested gifting methods for your current weekly donation:

- 1) dropping your envelope into the parish mail slot
- 2) forwarding to the parish, by local mail, a series of postdated cheques and Sunday envelopes.
- 3) Signing up for a pre-authorized donation program (contact office for the form)

## **Homily for the 5th Sunday of Lent A**

In the gospel passage of this Sunday, we recall how Jesus was told of the death of his friend Lazarus and how he restored him to life after he had been buried for four days. In this passage we see the whole message of Christian life: to believe in Jesus Christ, is to be brought out of the tomb of death, to be freed from what binds us and keeps us captive, and to be offered eternal life.

Very often, when we are faced with the hard realities of life, be it sickness or death, we ask questions: why do we have to suffer? Why do we have to die? Why isn't life happier, longer, secure, and more fulfilling? Like Jesus said, certain things happen so that the glory of God may be revealed and our faith in God tested and strengthened. Very often, it is in the face of our challenges, that we are shocked to consciousness. For instance, the whole world is now united as one humanity, fighting a common enemy in the wake of the covid 19 pandemic. Our social class, color, race and religion are no longer so important; rather, we are now focusing on finding solutions to what has become our common enemy.

So the story of the rising of Lazarus from the dead, invites us to be ready to stand for each other. We are humbled by the inevitability of death, but we trust in the goodness of God, as demonstrated in the life and words of Jesus. In John's 14:1, Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God and trust also in me". As God's children, we believe that God will never abandon us. We are safe in the hollow of his hands.

Jesus led Mary and Martha to a new insight into the power of faith over death, hence the rising of Lazarus from the dead. May our faith be strengthened in whatever situation we find ourselves; and may the power of God lead us to experience freedom and liberation. May the Lord hear our cries and heal our troubled world. Amen

## **L'homélie pour le 5<sup>e</sup> dimanche de Carême A**

Le passage de l'évangile de ce dimanche, nous raconte la mort de Lazare, l'ami de Jésus et comment Jésus l'a ressuscité même s'il était mort depuis déjà quatre jours . Cet évangile résume bien le message de la vie chrétienne ; croire en Jésus-Christ, c'est d'être sorti du tombeau de la mort, c'est d'être libéré de ce qui nous garde captifs et c'est se voir offrir la vie éternelle.

Très souvent, lorsque nous envisageons les dures réalités de la vie, telles que la maladie et même la mort, nous nous posons les questions suivantes: Pourquoi devons-nous souffrir? Pourquoi devons-nous mourir? Pourquoi la vie n'est-elle pas plus heureuse, plus longue, plus sûre et plus épanouissante? Comme Jésus nous le dit, certaines choses arrivent pour que la gloire de Dieu soit révélée et que notre foi renforcée. C'est très souvent face aux défis que nous sommes poussés à agir. En ce moment le monde entier est réuni à combattre un ennemi commun: la pandémie covid 19. Malgré notre classe sociale, la couleur de notre peau, notre race, notre religion, nous travaillons tous ensemble pour contrôler et enrayer notre ennemi commun, cette affreuse maladie.

L'histoire de la résurrection de Lazare nous invite à être prêts à se supporter les uns les autres. Même quand nous envisageons l'inévitabilité de la mort, nous avons confiance en la bonté de Dieu comme en témoignent la vie et les paroles de Jésus . Il nous dit bien: " Ne soyez donc pas bouleversés: vous croyez en Dieu, vous croyez aussi en moi."( Jean 14:1) Comme enfants de Dieu, nous croyons qu'il ne nous abandonnera jamais. Nous sommes en sécurité dans le creux de ses mains.

En ressuscitant Lazare, Jésus a révélé à Marie et Marthe le pouvoir de la vie sur la mort. Malgré les obstacles que nous envisageons, que notre foi soit renforcée et que la puissance de Dieu soit pour nous une source de liberté et de libération . Que le seigneur attende nos cris de détresse et qu'il guérisse notre monde troublé! Amen

Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead!.....Father Joseph