

ST. CECILIA CHURCH

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER



*Awake, O
sleeper,
and arise
from the
dead,
and
Christ will
give you
light.*

EPHESIANS 5:14

PASTOR'S LETTER

FROM OUR PASTOR FR. CARY RENIVA

Dearest parishioners of St. Cecilia, may the peace of Christ be with you!

“You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” (Eph. 5:8) These words of St. Paul to the Ephesians in the second reading for this Sunday’s liturgy brings so much consolation in my heart as the world is wrapped with so much darkness and fear due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the midst of the growing uncertainty surrounding this pandemic, we might feel like the blind man in the gospel who had never seen light until Christ opened his eyes. But for us people of faith, the light of Christ always triumphs in the end. And this light is found from within, in our deepest interiority. That is why in the same letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, he exhorts us to: live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth (5:8-9). **(cont.)**

FR. CARY'S LETTER CONT.

Our own "darkness" might already be too much for us to handle, not allowing us to look at the needs of our neighbor. But this is the time that we need to be in greater communion and solidarity with one another, exercising extraordinary pastoral charity especially to those who feel isolated because of this pandemic, especially the most vulnerable- the elderly.

Here at St. Cecilia's, we are looking for ways to stay connected with you through daily live-streaming of Masses, the availability of the sacraments (like the sacrament of confession through personal appointments with the priests), and by reaching out to our elderly who live alone. We want to find a balance here in our parish- avoiding hunkering down from our pastoral work, while also providing a safe place for everyone in compliance with social distancing.

In this first Sunday that Masses are canceled, please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I especially pray for the safety and good health of your families. But in the meantime let us keep each other close in prayer. May the "Eucharistic absence" create in us a deeper hunger for Christ. I look forward to celebrating again the Eucharist with you here at our parish.

Let me end this note with the Prayer Over People that our liturgy this weekend aptly provides for us in this time of great need: "Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ, our Lord."

- Fr. Cary

CARE MINISTRY

At St. Cecilia's, we care deeply for our senior parishioners. During this difficult time, if you know someone we should reach out to, please contact us. jphillips@stceciliachurch.org, 503-644-2956 x174

SUGGESTIONS

Please let us know how we can be serving you better through our communications. Contact at Amanda Jewett ajewett@stceciliachurch.org

10 VIRTUAL MASS TIPS

1. "Attend" our online streaming Mass at stceciliachurch.org or on Facebook.
2. Get dressed up like you are going to Mass.
3. Place a bowl of Holy Water out so people can bless themselves before Mass.
4. Set up "pews" using chairs (aka don't sit on a couch)
5. Print the readings to create your own missal (magnificat.com has made their digital version available for free!)
6. Consider inviting a few friends over in the community to join you.
7. Offer up your Mass for those who frequently can't attend (sick, homebound, persecuted, etc.)
8. Participate by singing, saying responses, standing, and kneeling
9. Pray a spiritual communion during the distribution of the Blessed Sacrament.
10. Have donuts or a special treat after Mass

PARISH UPDATES

The Parish Office will be closed to the public and for any in-person business. Parish staff will still be working our regular office hours, so please get a hold of us over the phone or through e-mail.

Without public Masses being held, Fr. Cary and Fr. Brent are committed to livestreaming Mass for you all everyday. Our schedule for livestream mass is:

- 8:00 am daily (Monday - Saturday)
- 9:00 am Sunday in English
- 12:00 pm Sunday in Spanish

Our live stream is now available on [YouTube](#), in addition to [our website](#) and [Facebook page](#)! Please be sure to follow us.

FAMILY RESOURCES

WRITTEN BY AMANDA JEWETT

Without the ability to physically attend Mass, Lenten events, faith formation classes, and the like, many are feeling a bit lost. This section is intended for families desiring to enter into each Sunday more deeply with one another, at home.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has released a project called "52 Sundays" under their evangelization initiative called "Unleash the Gospel" to empower the domestic church.

When you subscribe, they send an email every week with a Sunday gospel reflection, a weekly saint, discussion questions, a recipe, a family activity, and a prayer challenge. You can subscribe here: [52 SUNDAYS](#)



THIS WEEK'S SAINT

Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez was ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Salvador in 1942 and quickly became a popular, well-known parish priest, editor of his diocesan newspaper, and eventually, Bishop of Santiago de Maria. One day in 1975, soldiers raided a village in his diocese and killed many innocent people. Bishop Romero was horrified. At the funerals of these villagers, he spoke about people's human rights and how the military was wrong in the things they did. On March 24, 1980, he was gunned down by an unknown assassin while celebrating Mass in a small hospital chapel. The day before, he had asked Salvadoran soldiers to obey God and not the government. On October 14, 2018, he was canonized a saint of the Church. We celebrate his feast day on March 24.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

These sites are available for grab and go lunches 11am-12pm next week March 30th-31st.

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| Aloha Huber Park K-8 | Hazeldale Elementary School | William Walker School |
| Barnes Elementary School | Kinnaman Elementary School | Whitford Middle School |
| Beaver Acres School | McKinley Elementary School | Beaverton High School |
| Chehalem Elementary School | Raleigh Hills K-8 | Southridge High School |
| Fir Grove Elementary School | Vose Elementary School | Sunset High School |