

# St. William Parish

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April 19, 2020 ~ Second Sunday of Easter



## Pastor's COLUMN

On this Second Sunday of Easter, our gospel passage is the familiar one of “*doubting Thomas*” although he is never called that in the story! On the evening of Easter, Jesus makes his appearance to the disciples, though Thomas is absent. As the story continues, one week later Jesus appears again, and this time Thomas is with the group. During this intervening week, we might wonder what the other disciples said to Thomas about all that he missed; we will never know for sure, however, this time when Thomas is present he believes and offers his profound profession of faith. His personal experience of the Risen Christ melts away his doubt and unbelief. Such is a model of how we also come to faith. Sometimes, like Thomas, despite all the evidence, testimony, and enthusiasm of believers, our faith never takes root unless we personally encounter the Risen Christ. This is summed up in the closing words of today’s episode, “*that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.*”

It is uncanny how the gospel selections over the past few weeks seem to apply directly to the situation and circumstances we continue facing. As we cope with these unusual and uncertain times, we are also being challenged to believe and to show the world that Christ indeed has risen from the dead. The bewilderment of the disciples and the women upon finding the tomb empty, and now of Thomas, can be likened to the uncertainty, fear and apprehension we have been encountered the past few weeks. Not knowing what lies ahead or what life will be like is certainly unsettling. Just like Thomas, along with the other disciples who came to believe in the Risen Lord, we are also being asked to believe that things will get better; that life will improve; and that soon we will return to full and abundant living. To comfort and help us, we have been given the gift of the Spirit. This is the Easter gift that we have received and need to share with one another so that the message of our Risen Lord can be lived! We experience the suffering and death of Jesus when we encounter challenge and struggle in our own lives...such as now. However, we also can experience the resurrection of Jesus when we are open to those encounters that Jesus continues to give us. We need to not only be aware of the occasions when we experience death and suffering but also, most especially, when we experience life and exaltation! In the coming days, let us keep in mind the new life the Risen Lord gives to us not only this Easter but always and everywhere!



I am sure you have noticed that the days are getting longer, the flowers and trees are beginning to wake from their winter slumber, and spring has arrived! New life is around us and in our midst and the Risen Lord is being celebrated. I hope that you had a wonderful Easter holiday and that the Risen Lord will continue to touch you each and every day of this wonderful season. Many thanks to all who offered the many kind words of thanks and appreciation about last week’s Easter Sunday Mass. Although it certainly was not the way I ever thought I would celebrate with you, it was a privilege and joy to bring Easter Mass to you. Prayers and good thoughts continue to be offered for your well-being and that of your family and thank you for all your prayers and good wishes and for your continued support of the parish. Your faithfulness, kindness and generosity have been overwhelming and comforting.

*Happy Easter! Have a Good Week and Stay Safe!*  
Fr. Balash

## WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE...

Many thanks to all who continue mail, drop off, or use myEoffering to make their current weekly contribution. Your response in these unusual circumstances has been overwhelming and most generous. I very much appreciate and am grateful for your support in helping us to meet our financial obligations.

THANK YOU!  
Fr. Balash

*With limited office hours, if you plan to drop off your offering, you can place it in the mailbox at the main entrance. It is checked daily at 12:00noon, 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.*

## OFFERTORY SUMMARY ~ April 12, 2020 (WK 40)

	LAST WK	YTD
Sunday Collection	\$ 7,148.49*	\$ 295,832.14*
Amount Needed	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 291,000.00
Difference	\$ 48.49	\$ 4,732.14
Performance	101%	102%

\* Includes MyEoffering: \$ 1,532.49 LAST WK — \$ 28,359.69 YTD  
Envelopes ~ 131 out of 552  
Children's Envelopes ~ \$ 5.00 (3 out of 62)  
Holy Land/Good Friday Collection ~ \$1,016.88  
Easter Collection ~ \$6,276.70

**Pot-of-Gold: #204 drawn on 4/15/20.**

**Winner: Hubert McKenney received \$578.00**

## ST. WILLIAM SCAVENGER HUNT BY CAR

SUNDAY, MAY 3 2:00 P.M. ~ 4:00 P.M.



Be part of a "Scavenger Hunt" without getting out of the car! Figure out the clues and take a picture of the magic "X" at various locations. Solve the puzzle! Submit your pictures! Be entered to WIN a PRIZE! More details coming this week!

## BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD



About 20 cars showed up last Saturday for the annual Blessing of Easter Food. This year it took place in the parking lot and baskets were displayed from cars in preparation for Easter!

## THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION...

Remember that the Church building remains closed and it is asked that no one enter the building without checking at the office first. The Parish Office is open on Monday and Friday ONLY from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, however you are encouraged to conduct any business by phone or mail. The office door handles and other surfaces are sanitized often for your safety. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Scripture that will be proclaimed **THIS WEEKEND** or visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for the Readings

~ April 19, 2020 ~

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 2: 42-47**

*They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers ...*

**1 Peter 1: 3-9**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope ...*

**John 20: 19-31**

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews ...*

†† RECENT DEATH ††

**Our Sincere Sympathy**

In your prayers for the departed, please remember

**Grace DeBattista**

*Sister of Vince DeSalvo*

*May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

## Spiritual Communion via Televised or On-Line Mass

The Act of Spiritual Communion is made when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion at Mass. The way to make an Act of Spiritual Communion is listed below and can be adapted based upon personal and family needs:

1. Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.
2. Watch Mass on television or on-line, or if unable, take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. Scripture readings can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). A schedule of televised Mass is available at [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org) under Media tab.
3. Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.
4. Pray the Lord's Prayer.
5. Offer a prayer for healing, strength, or forgiveness or any prayer available during the coronavirus pandemic. If viewing Mass, offer a prayer during the normal time of Communion.

### PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,*

*come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.*

*Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*

6. Close with the sign of the cross.

## REACHING OUT...

Many thanks to our parish Quilters who have made and donated masks to Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley recently. Just another example of the generosity of our St. William Parish family!



## myEoffering?

### PARTICIPANTS INCREASE

 Many thanks to those who have recently signed up for *myEoffering*! There has been an increase in parishioners taking advantage of this opportunity. This is an easy and convenient way to remain current on your weekly offerings. Electronic giving is safe and secure. Sign up for *myEoffering* today! Follow the easy sign-up registration and instruction steps found on the parish website: [www.stwilliamchampion.org](http://www.stwilliamchampion.org) to establish your account. Questions??? Call the Parish Office.

## Online Mass

Daily Mass is available at [www.CatholicTV.org](http://www.CatholicTV.org)

## LIVE-STREAM MASS FROM ST. COLUMBA EVERY SUNDAY

Every Sunday Mass is live-streamed for from Saint Columba Cathedral at 10:30 a.m. on WFMJ-TV's website. Go to [www.wfmj.com](http://www.wfmj.com) and click on "Weekly Faith Services."

## "SHEPHERDING ONE ANOTHER"

As we to cope with the absence of Sunday Mass, our "Shepherding One Another" outreach continues. A group of parishioners have volunteered to be your "contact" with the parish during this time and have begun making courtesy phone calls checking in and making sure everyone is doing OK in these unusual circumstances. Just another way to stay in touch as we physically distance!!



## WG CARD PARTY...REMIX!!

Sunday was supposed to be the 2020 Card Party. Even though it has been cancelled there is no reason why we can't party - *Social Distance Style!* Everyone to dig out your cards, eat a salad, and send Theresa Craiger a photo of you playing solitaire. This challenge may involve door prizes too! You can send the photos to [tcraiger@stwilliamchampion.org](mailto:tcraiger@stwilliamchampion.org) or call 330-442-1024.

## MARIAN DEVOTION

Although we had to cancel the Marian Devotion banquet this year, the Women's Guild would still like to honor Mary by putting together a slideshow of statues and/or pictures of the Blessed Virgin Mary in and around your home. If you have a statue of picture of the Blessed Mary in your home please take a picture of it and email it to Theresa Craiger at [tcraiger@stwilliamchampion.org](mailto:tcraiger@stwilliamchampion.org) or text it to 330-442-1024. Pictures need to be sent no later than Wednesday, April 29.



## PARISH APP

### SEEING MORE ACTIVITY...

Missing out on news, updates and information? Put your smartphone to good use and sign up for our Parish APP. It's FREE and EASY! Simply text **APP** to **88202** to download **myParish APP**. Select our parish and follow the easy instructions or visit our website for more information. During this time it is important to stay connected. Circumstances change daily and the **BEST** way to stay in touch, get news, and keep you informed is through the Parish APP. Questions??? Call the Parish Office.



## A PRAYER FOR ALL OF US DURING THIS TIME

by Pat Maciejewski

Lord, God,  
creator of all good things,  
help us in these days of concern and unrest,  
of the unknown and maybe even panic.  
Be with all medical personnel,  
and all in charge of keeping us safe and calm.

We trust in you, O Lord,  
to give us the strength and courage,  
words and actions,  
that we might need in the days and weeks ahead.

Keep us prudent in caring for ourselves,  
our loved ones, and all others,  
We implore you, O God, to send  
your healing and spirit into the whole world.  
Remain with us, grant us peace.

AMEN



## BY THE NUMBERS...

Easter Sunday Mass 2020 brought many (lots!) of us together to celebrate Christ's rising from the dead in a new and unusual way this year. Here is a breakdown of who, when, where, and how viewers celebrated Mass with St. William this year:

### St. William Web Pages Visited during April:

Home Page ~ 1,592; Easter Mass page ~ 599; News/Events page ~ 311

### Number of Visitors to St. William website in April:

1,199; U.S. ~ 1,174; U.K. ~ 3; Turkey ~ 2; Mexico ~ 2; New Zealand ~ 1

### Number of Visitors watching online Easter Sunday Mass:

Total ~ 1,042; Easter Mass Page ~ 599; St. William YouTube Account ~ 443

### Devices used to watch Mass:

49.6% used Mobile Phones (62% use iPhones); 38.3% used desktop/laptop;  
12.2% use Tablets

### Users/Viewers:

61% of viewers are return visitors; 39% of viewers are first time visitors to St. William website

### Number of people in U.S. Cities where the St. William website was accessed:

Cortland ~ 350; Newton Falls ~ 115; Warren ~ 86; Champion ~ 53;  
Niles ~ 41; Garrettsville ~ 30; Cleveland ~ 22

Note: Internet Access points can vary at time of day and amount of users.



## St. William Youth Ministry Fundraiser

### MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

Pick Up In Parish Parking Lot Thursday, May 7, 2020

2:00pm–6:00pm



Orders must be submitted VIA EMAIL by Monday, April 27, 2020

Make Checks Payable to: St. William Parish

HANGING BASKETS PROVIDED BY BERNARD'S GARDEN CENTER

1. Complete this order form and email it to [tmccue@stwilliamchampion.org](mailto:tmccue@stwilliamchampion.org)

2. **CURB SIDE PICK UP**—when you arrive to pick up your order—please remain in your car

~ roll down your window and drop payment in the basket ~ pop your trunk ~ Tina will load your flowers

Please contact Tina McCue at 330.883.2044 with any questions

10" Hanging Basket	Pink	Purple	Mix	Salmon	White	Red	Yellow	Total Qty	Each	Total Cost
PETUNIA				n/a					\$ 16.00	
CALIBRACHOA	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		\$ 16.00	
GERANIUM			n/a				n/a		\$ 17.00	
BEGONIA		n/a	n/a						\$ 17.00	
DRAGON WING BEGONIA		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a		\$ 17.00	
FUSCHIA		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		\$ 17.00	
BOSTON FERN	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		\$ 17.00	
TOTAL										\$

n/a indicates the type of flower is not available in that particular color