



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

P. O. Box 365 117 South Main St.

Loreauville, Louisiana 70552

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Rev. Barry F. Crochet, Pastor

Rev. Godwin Nzeh CMF, Associate Pastor

Deacon Christopher Doumit, Pastoral Assistant

pastor@stjosephparishonline.org

stjosephparishonline.org

LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass — 4:00 p.m.

Sunday — 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Monday — 6:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Tuesday — 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph

Wednesday — 6:45 a.m. at Saint Joseph

Thursday — 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph

Friday — 6:45 a.m. at Saint Joseph and

5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory

First Saturday — 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. and one-half hour before all weekday Masses, or by appointment during office hours.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If possible please conduct parish business by phone or email.

RECEPTIONIST/BOOKKEEPER/CEMETERIAN

Mrs. Gail Borel — gail.borel@stjosephparishonline.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Sherry Hebert — sherry.hebert@stjosephparishonline.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Adoration Chapel has reopened. The Main Church is also open from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for your convenience.

FUNERALS

A Funeral Service in church without Mass will be celebrated along with a graveside service at the cemetery.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

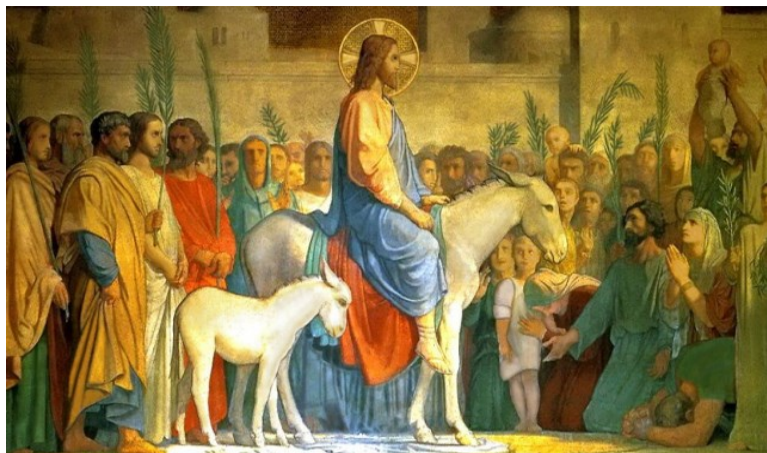
Baptism will be celebrated with godparents and immediate family only. Those with compromised immune systems should not attend. Families may opt to delay the baptism until the whole family can gather in celebration. In the case of an emergency Baptism is always permissible.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Weddings are to be celebrated according to the Rite for celebrating marriage outside of Mass with immediate family only. Engaged couples may wish to consider rescheduling their weddings, if possible.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

“Anointing of the Sick will remain available as needed by the faithful.”



Almighty ever-living God, Who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed His lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in His Resurrection.



YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE

ADORE.

OBEY.

SERVE.

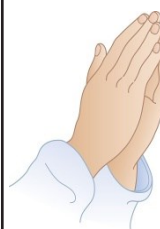
Please pray for our parish family members who are sick:

We invite you to submit the names of people who are in need of our prayers.

Stuart Sandoz, Duffy Domingue, Eric Clements, David Louviere, Hayden Ransonet, Trevor Louviere, Vanessa Courville, Austin Willett, Willey Poirrier, Inez Barras, Helen Bastian, Butch and Debbie White, Guy Thibodeaux, Lydia May, Louis “CoCo” Landry Jr., Jerry Fruge, Jimmy Clifton, Rowena Borel, Megan Scully, Maxine Latiolais, Dawn Derouen, Falyn Sonnier, Rickey Sonnier, Caline Provost, Patricia Freyou, Lecia Broussard, Jason Walker, Michael Theriot, Roshondra Nora, Noah Abraham, Jimmy LeBlanc,

Chad Borel, Sophie Bonin, Ashley Hebert, Stephen Dugas, Bonnie Hebert, Jon-Luke Lancon, Jade Delcambre, Pat Villermin., Ira Bourque, Hailey Thomasee, Lon Prioux, Francis Crochet, Brennan Wingfield, Lawrence Albert, Betty Suire, Joe Judice., Lisa Adcock, Joan Arceneaux, Eric Suire, Nola Champagne, Kathleen Heitkamp, Lori Brasseaux, Jamie Brady, Lisa N. Dugas, Nona Bourque, Leroy Begnaud, Betty Champagne.

Please note that our office will purge the names on our sick list every quarter. We ask anyone who lists someone's name to please call the parish office to add or remove a name.



March 21, 2021	
Regular Sunday Offering Envelopes	\$ 4,919.00
Regular Sunday Offering Loose	\$ 3,045.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,385.00
Regular Collection Total	\$ 7,964.00
Difference	+ \$ 579.00
Present Loan Balance	\$ 294,866.58
Donation Against Loan Balance	\$ 30.00
Insurance Balance 2020-2021	\$ 27,992.00
Insurance Collection	\$ 398.00

Mass Intentions — 3/27 — 4/3

Saturday 4:00 p.m. — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Ronald Albert, Aymar “Poon” and Beulah Dugas, Ide Dugas Family, Alexis Laviolette Family, Wayne LeBlanc, Lily Mae and Alvin LeBlanc, Otto Sr. and Laurence Girouard, Terradot Family, Theresa Girouard Allen, Chad Romero, Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne, Audrey Crochet, Jordan Prince and Special Intention, Barry Eldridge and Ned Broussard Families, Melvin Dugas, Roy Sr. and Gladys Berard, Forbus and Myrtle Mestayer Sr., Granger and Mestayer Family, Ronald, Sr. and Mildred Gonsoulin, Leed and Mabel Gondron, Fred Laviolette, Louis and Grace Moran, Gloria and Sam Delcambre and Family, Virginia Frioux, Lennet and Marie Antoinette Crochet, Clenie and Eve Segura and Billie, Sally Domingue, Cabrol and Domingue Family, Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Lloyd Broussard, Claude and Felicie Granger, Nancy Broussard, Clarence and Hilda Landry, Billie and Armance Barrilleaux, Kay Dooley and William and Dolores Dooley, Earl Mestayer, Kim Decuir, Ossie Romero, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Louis Prince, Bryan Broussard, Sr., All the war victims who died in wars, Barbara Perez, Eula Mae Champagne, Eugene Braquet, Louto Braquet Jr., Richard Guillotte, Broussard Family, Bouy Family, Vance Breaux, Sr., Walter and Doris M. Judice, Dr. John Rellus Hebert, D.D.S., John Sonnier, Jr. and Marie and John Sonnier Sr., Lula Mae Broussard, Lula Mae Broussard, Ludrick Labbe, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Alvaro Jimenez, Robert Lawrence, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. — John Michael Steiner, Jay Gonsoulin Family, Paul Sonnier Family and Clyde Warfel Family, Loto and Leah Louviere, Antoine “Boy” LeBlanc Family, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Albert Sr., Champagne and Landry Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Maude Granger, John and Doris Prados, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Granger, Dr. Raymond Schneider, Elaine Schneider, Skip Schneider, Lolly Harbin, Breaux and Delcambre Families, Lenwood Delcambre, Dugas, Borel and Chataignier Family, Joe and Rita Habetz, Mary Kay Habetz, Tom Voorhies, Oris Cormier, Virginia Landry, Lovell Romero, S.J. “Bute” Granger and Junius and Mary Hebert, Lillian and Billy Fontenot and Vance Rodriguez, Delcambre and Breaux Family and Descendants, Phyllis Crochet LeBlanc, Lula Mae Broussard, Ludrick Labbe, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Alvaro Jimenez, Robert Lawrence, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet.

10:00 a.m. — Joyce Menard, Alvin and Faye Tauzin, Edmonia Tauzin, Marcel and Nadage Broussard, Jimmy Eldridge, Elaine Plessala and Eldridge Family, Cheryl Segura, Pliny Walet Family, Agnes Breaux, Louis and Elbay Judice, Boots Thomas, Joe Boudreaux and Justin Boudreaux, Katie Boutte, Sandra Angelle and Glenn Angelle, Angelle Family, Lula Mae Broussard, Ludrick Labbe, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Alvaro Jimenez, Robert Lawrence, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet.

Monday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Lula Mae Broussard, Ludrick Labbe, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Alvaro Jimenez, Robert Lawrence, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet.

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning for

Louto and Anite Gondron

The Vocation Chalice is in Church

Please pray for vocations. If you would like to have the vocation chalice in your home please call the rectory office at 229-4254

Flowers on the Altar

Ossie Romero, Jr., Vance Breaux Sr., Sue Crochet

Flowers for the Saint Joseph's Altar in loving memory of

Anna Soprano

The Bi-Monthly Statue is in the home of

Parishioners

The Weekly Statue is in the home of

Parishioners

Saint Joseph Altar Candles are burning for

Mike and Liz Thibodeaux (special intention), Glenn and Liz Delahoussaye Mr. and Mrs. Collins Louviere and Kerney, Will and Lily Roberts Delcambre and Breaux Families, Jon-Luke Lancon, Vance Breaux Sr., Ossie Romero, Jr., Sue Crochet, Steve and Donna Berard, Special Intention, Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne and Chad Romero Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious Protection from and end to Corona Virus Saint Anthony Special Intention, Larry Viator Sr. Charles and Jackie Poirrier Family, Pliny Walet, Special Intention Conversion of our Country those who are away from the Church and Sacraments Breaux, Hebert, Judice, Prados and Breaux families, Special Intention.

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. StJo — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Lula Mae Broussard, Ludrick Labbe, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Alvaro Jimenez, Robert Lawrence, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet.

Wednesday 6:45 a.m. StJo — Larry Viator, Jr., Andrew “Toupee” Bonin, Lorena, Francis and Warren Dupoy, John Michael Steiner, Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Lula Mae Broussard, Ludrick Labbe, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Alvaro Jimenez, Robert Lawrence, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet.

Thursday 6:00 p.m. StJo — Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Judice and Walet Families, Delcambre and Breaux Family and Descendants, Robin, Stan and Van Judice, Jason Suarez Family, Cameron Barrilleaux Family, Destini Armstrong Family, Steven and Donna Berard Family, Special Intention, Lula Mae Broussard, Ludrick Labbe, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Alvaro Jimenez, Robert Lawrence, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet.

Friday 3:00 p.m. StJo — Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEK			
	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
Holy Thursday April 1 6:00 p.m.	Claudette Thibodeaux	Deacon Chris	Volunteers
Good Friday April 2 3:00 p.m.	Earl Price (narrator) Jana Angelle (voice)	Deacon Chris	Volunteers
Easter Vigil April 3 8:00 p.m.	Roberta Degeyter	Deacon Chris	Volunteers
Easter Sunday April 4 8:00 a.m.	Russell Steiner	Isela Kerne	Volunteers
10:00 a.m.	Mike Lawson	Monica Delahoussaye	Volunteers

**Please pray for our priests, seminarians,
deacons and religious**

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these special sons and daughters. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

March 28	Rev. Michael Sucharski, SVD/Gabe Dowden Dcn. Cliff Tanner/Sr. Rita Darensbourg, SSF
March 29	Very Rev. Jared Suire, VE/Rev. Mr. Casey Dugas Dcn. Coby Thomas/Sr. Mary Lucille Stelley, SSF
March 30	Rev. Brian Taylor/John Dugas Dcn. Tam Tran/Sr. Rachel Williams, SSF
March 31	Rev. Arockiadass Thanaraj, HGN/Tré Fontenot Dcn. Jeff Trumps/Sr. Pius Blanchard, MHS
April 1	Pope Francis/Rev. Patrick Broussard, Director of Seminarians Dcn. Stephen Van Cleve/Sr. Micha DeHart, MHS
April 2	Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI/ Rev. Blake Dubroc, Director of Vocations Dcn Durwood Viator/Sr. Diane Dornan, MHS
April 3	Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel/ Seminary Faculty, Parents and Benefactors of Seminarians Dcn. Bill Vincent/Sr. Sophie Guidry, MHS



The Loreauville Catholic Daughters of America are asking our parish family to be a part of their campaign to collect canned goods and dry goods for Our Lady of Victory Food Pantry. During this Lenten Season, the goal is to collect enough canned and dry goods to *Make A Difference*.

The Food Pantry provides for families in need. With the COVID Pandemic along with the hurricanes we have faced recently, many families have been able to get assistance from the Food Pantry. Since its opening in 1992, the pantry has served over 7000 plus families.

Our Lady of Victory Food Pantry accepts canned goods, dry goods, and monetary donations. The pantry cannot except expired goods. Please check the expiration dates.

The food pantry is 100% volunteer-operated and administered by a volunteer Board of Directors at Our Lady of Victory Food Pantry. They are open every other Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., except holidays.

At the entrances of our church and the church office, there are baskets to collect your donations. If you choose to give a monetary donation, please contact Gail at the Parish Office [229-4254].

The Catholic Daughters Thank you for your donations and contributions to this campaign project to *Make a Difference*.

**A Bishop Who Must Decide
by Fr. Gerald E. Murray**

The recent *Responsum* of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, restating the Church's teaching on the sinful nature of homosexual acts, and thus the impossibility of an ordained minister of the Church legitimately conferring a blessing upon the union of two homosexuals, should have evoked expressions of gratitude from all the bishops of the Church. Many face continuous pressure from various quarters to abandon the Church's doctrine and practice concerning homosexuality. Instead, a number of bishops, primarily in Western Europe but also in America, have strongly criticized and indicated their disagreement, and even disgust, with the *Responsum*.

Perhaps the most vehement public rejection was issued by the Bishop of Antwerp, Johan Bonny. In the Flemish-language *De Standaard* he wrote:

- "I feel ashamed for my Church. I mainly feel intellectual and moral incomprehension."
- "I want to apologize to all for whom this is painful and incomprehensible."
- "Intellectually, this does not even reach the level of high school. These kind[s] of arguments, the logic, you see right through it. These days, you don't convince anyone that way."
- "Sin is one of the most difficult theological and moral categories to define, and one of the last to pin on people and their way of living together."
- "I myself know gay couples, in civil marriages with children, who form a warm and stable family, and who also actively participate in parish life. Some of them are active full-time as pastoral or church employees. I am very grateful to them. Who has an interest in denying that no resemblance or analogy to heterosexual marriage is possible here?"
- "A respectful approach to same-sex marriage can only take place in the broader context of the Order of Service for Marriage, as an eventual variation on the theme of marriage and family life, with an honest acknowledgement of actual similarities and differences."

Bishop Bonny's plain rejection of the Church's teaching on the gravely sinful nature of homosexual acts and the impossibility of so-called same-sex marriage is stunning. He is *ashamed* of and apologizes for the Church's teaching and practice, which he finds to be disrespectful and incomprehensible.

The *Responsum* is mocked as illogical and intellectually juvenile, particularly since, as he remarkably claims, the definition of what counts as sin is extremely difficult to arrive at, as is any attribution of sinfulness to the behavior of people who engage in homosexual acts. He is grateful to the homosexual couples he knows who, while scandalizing the faithful by their public proclamation of their sinful lifestyle, are active in their parishes or are even full-time Church employees. As he sees it, their relationship, which is based on a mutual promise to engage in acts of sodomy, is in fact a "variation" that possesses a "resemblance" and "actual similarities" to marriage.

Is this how a Catholic bishop is supposed to teach, govern and sanctify the faithful? The 2004 *Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops* states: "Conforming himself to Christ, the Bishop offers an outstanding service to unity and to ecclesial communion: his conduct demonstrates that no one in the Church may legitimately command others if he does not first offer himself as an example of obedience to the Word of God and to the authority of the Church." (#43)

"In the light of the Word of God, the Bishop should be able to discern and evaluate currents of thought, as well as anthropological and scientific trends, so as to respond, with fidelity to the doctrine and discipline of the Church, to the new questions arising in society." (#52)

"In exercising his pastoral ministry, the Bishop should act in the knowledge that he is the "visible principle and foundation" of unity in his diocese, but always with a view also to the unity of the whole Catholic Church. He should promote unity in faith, in love and in discipline, so that the diocese is aware that it forms a vital part of the whole People of God." (#58)

"It is also the Bishop's task to proclaim always and everywhere the moral principles of the social order, in this way announcing man's authentic liberation,

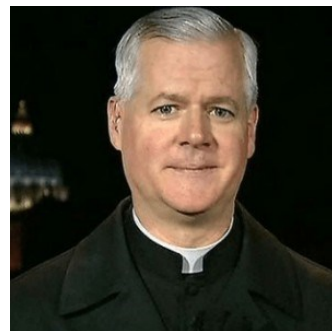
brought about through the Incarnation of the Word. When the rights of the human person or the salvation of souls so demand, it is his duty to express a judgment based on revelation about the concrete realities of human life: in particular, on matters concerning the value of life, the meaning of freedom, the unity and stability of the family, the procreation and education of children ... The Bishop should not fail to make known to his people the teachings and guidelines that he receives from the Holy See." (#120)

Bishop Bonny did not decide to reject Church teaching on the day that the Holy See issued the *Responsum*. His comments reveal a longtime practical acceptance of homosexual activity as a moral good that should be respected and approved of by the faithful.

At the time of his installation as the Bishop of Antwerp he publicly swore the required *Oath of Fidelity* that includes the following: "I promise that in my words and actions I shall always preserve communion with the Catholic Church ... I shall hold fast to the Deposit of Faith in its entirety; I shall faithfully hand it on and explain it, and I shall avoid any teachings contrary to it ... So help me God."

Bishop Bonny faces a decision if he is to remain true to God and the words he solemnly swore on the Bible: recant his rejection of the Church's teaching and faithfully proclaim that teaching within his diocese. If he cannot do that, he should immediately resign.

For the good of his soul and of the souls of his flock, I pray he recants. If he refuses and also refuses to resign, he should be removed by Pope Francis as a stumbling block, a true scandal to the faithful.



The Rev. Gerald E. Murray, J.C.D. is a canon lawyer and the pastor of Holy Family Church in New York City.

[Holy Week] 28	Palm Sunday 8:00 am Mass [St o] 9:00 am Mass [OLV] 10:00 am Mass [St o] 11:00 am Mass [OLV]	Monday 6:15 am Confessions [OLV] 6:45 am Mass [OLV]	Tuesday 5:00 pm Confessions [St o] 5:30 pm Mass [St o]	Wednesday 6:15 am Confessions [St o] 6:45 am Mass [St o] 5:30 pm Extra Confession Time [St o]	April 1	Holy Thursday 10:30 Chrism Mass 11:30 am Investiture-Saint John Cathedral 5:00 pm Confessions 6:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm Nocturnal Adoration	Good Friday 10:00 am Way of the Cross for Youth 2:00 pm Confessions 3:00 pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion	Holy Saturday 8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass

A Catholic Cathedral: "A Sort of World" by Robert Royal

Unless there's a last-minute change of orders in the hours between this being written and the opening of Saint Peter's Basilica Monday morning, the Church in Rome will have taken another, bizarre, almost inexplicable step in an age that can little afford the West's central spiritual institution to go even more wobbly.

I refer, of course, to the strange decision to prohibit Masses being said in Saint Peter's on side altars, often on the spur of the moment, in various languages; and to restrict everyone attending Mass in the Basilica to the few central services offered only in Italian and Latin.

This may seem a small matter, especially during the COVID lockdowns, when there are few pilgrims entering Saint Peter's anyway. But this was not an order issued in response to the potential dangers from the virus at side-altar Masses, nor does it bear any explanation that this is just a temporary measure that will be suspended when conditions are "safe."

No, it reflects yet another instance of the Church – or at least some high-placed officials in the Vatican – reducing the breadth and depth that Catholicism should offer to God's holy people.

I call as witness the ever-prescient John Henry (now Saint) Newman who wrote more than a century and a half ago about the feeling in a "great cathedral":

as I have said for months past that I never knew what worship was, as an objective fact, till I entered the Catholic Church, and was partaker in its offices of devotion, so now I say the same on the view of its cathedral assemblages. I have expressed myself so badly that I doubt if you will understand me, but a Catholic Cathedral is a sort of world, every one going about his own business, but that business a religious one; groups of worshippers, and solitary ones – kneeling, standing – some at shrines, some at altars – bearing Mass and communicating, currents of worshippers intercepting and passing by each other – altar after altar lit up for worship, like stars in the firmament – or the bell giving notice of what is going on in parts you do not see, and all the while the canons in the choir going through matins and lauds, and at the end of it the incense rolling up from the high altar, and all this in one of the most wonderful buildings in the world and every day – lastly, all of this without any show or effort – but what everyone is used to – everyone at his own work, and leaving everyone else to his. (Letter, September 24, 1846)

Cardinal Burke has explained in detail the irregularities in the document proclaiming the new rules. And that too is a retreat from an older Catholic understanding that rules matter because they assure fairness. And if circumstances arise in which they become unfair, the rules are changed to other rules, so that we don't just have a regime of "executive orders" in the Church. (As we all know, ignoring rules in various areas has led to anarchy and the widespread belief that rules may be simply overruled by someone's "truth." Witness the open rebellion by hundreds of German-speaking priests who have declared that they will *continue* to bless "same-sex unions" and are outraged at the Vatican asserting in a recent document that the Church cannot bless "sin.")

Other commentators have pointed out the practical –

even the pastoral – disasters that the new regulations about Masses in Saint Peter's will present to future pilgrims. One memorable experience when you visit Rome is a kind of pick-up Mass with a priest who speaks your language (how many can follow Mass in Italian or – alas – even Latin, the universal language of the Church?). You may find yourself half-asleep, jet-lagged, dizzy from dragging yourself out of bed at 5:30 for a 6 AM Mass. But it's an experience you never forget, especially if the altar you happen to be assigned is above the tomb of a pope like John XXIII or JPPII.

But both the irregularities in law and the inconveniences to pilgrims, important as they may be, are as nothing – at least in the present writer's estimation – to the loss of a Catholic sensibility that Newman noted in the passage above, at a time when he was still a new Catholic and years earlier had even been repelled by certain Catholic beliefs and practices he had encountered traveling in Italy.

A great spirit, however, a Catholic spirit, could see through his own prejudices and English habits and respond to "altar after altar lit up for worship, like stars in the firmament" in a cathedral. Is there no one with a similar Catholic sensibility in the Vatican in a position to do something about the new rules – no one who sees "the sort of world" Newman sensed in the Milan *Duomo*, a world that reaches up into the very heavens?

And further, under a pope who has sought to decentralize things in the Church that do not need to be rendered narrowly uniform everywhere, is there no one who resonates to the embodiment of what Newman saw as a kind of image of the diversity within the Church Universal: "at the end of it the incense rolling up from the high altar, and all this in one of the most wonderful buildings in the world and every day – lastly, all of this without any show or effort – but what everyone is used to – everyone at his own work, and leaving everyone else to his."

That was once, before this morning, a fair description of Saint Peter's on an ordinary day as well – and of a Catholicism at one with the many languages and customs of its faithful people.

Dr. Robert Royal is editor-in-chief of *The Catholic Thing*, president of the Faith & Reason Institute in Washington, D.C., and currently serves as the Saint John Henry Newman Visiting Chair in Catholic Studies at Thomas More College. His most recent books are **Columbus and the Crisis of the West** and **A Deeper Vision: The Catholic Intellectual Tradition in the Twentieth Century**.

