



St. Richard of Chichester Church

P.O. Box 657 · Sterling, Massachusetts 01564

Web Site: www.strichardsterling.org · Tel: 978-422-8881 · Fax: 978-422-0291

Pastor: Rev. James M. Steuterman

Office Hours at Rectory: Mon.-Wed. 10:00am-Noon

MASS INTENTIONS – 2020

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

5:00pm Outdoor Mass Back Lot Chapel

Bring your own lawn chairs. Parking in front, lower lot, street and overflow lot. No reservations are necessary.

You can also listen to Mass from your car.

Tune in to FM 90.1

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

10:00am (Live Streaming on Facebook)

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Richard-of-Chichester-131131367048485/>

Also listen to Mass from your car. At 90.1 FM

DRIVE-BY COMMUNION

Conclusion of Mass - 11:00am

MASS INTENTIONS



**Patrick O'Sullivan
Deceased Sisters of
St. Joseph**

PARTNERS IN CHARITY RELIES ON YOUR SUPPORT

In the midst of this pandemic, thousands of people continue to rely on our diocesan ministries and agencies for assistance. Your gift can be a local stimulus check to help those in need. Please reflect on God's great generosity, and prayerfully respond with a gift or pledge. With your support, *faith in action* is visible every day in the compassionate outreach of our charitable agencies; in the prayerful witness of our retired priests and the joy of new priestly vocations; and to the ministries and programs that teach and inspire those seeking hope.

Watch a Video online: www.partners-charity.net and respond with a gift online, by mail or returned to your parish at Mass. Thank you.

NOTE: Clothing shed is closed until further notice!

FYI: TO ALL PARISHIONERS - JOIN FLOCKNOTE

In an effort to improve communication with all of our parishioners, we are asking people to sign up for **Flocknote**. TEXT **joinstrich** to 84576

You will receive a text with instructions on how to sign in. It will ask for your name, email and cell-phone number. That's It! Help us to improve our communication with you.

Thank You . Kathy Majikas – Parish Administrator
978-422-8881

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A MORE SPIRITUAL LIFE?



A 30-week directed prayer experience in the tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola is being offered by a team of Jesuits and parishioners experienced in Ignatian prayer. The program begins in October 2020 and runs weekly. Each session is about 90 minutes long and will be held on Tuesday evenings at St. Peter's Church in Worcester at 6:30pm, adjacent to Clark University.

Information nights will be on:

- August 4th - 6:30pm at St. Peter's lower church, 929 Main St., Worcester.
- August 11th - 7:00pm at St. John's upper church, 44 Temple St., Worcester.
- August 25th - 6:30 pm at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H Putnam Rd. Extension, Charlton.

For more information go to:

<https://www.ignatianspiritualexercisesworchester.com>

Or contact the team by e-mail at:

worcspex19@gmail.com

You may also call Dick Kirk at: 508-885-4462

Readings for August 1-2

Isaiah 55:1-3 (112A)

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

Second Reading - Romans 8:35, 37-39

Gospel - Matthew 14: 13-21

FROM THE PASTOR'S

August 2020

DESK



Dear Parishioners,

Who would have thought?

As we struggle with what the new normal will look like, we might all take a moment to ponder what has changed because of Covid-19.

I never imagined a time when our church would be closed. I felt the pain of this most deeply when we had to cancel Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, The Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. We began to live-stream Sunday Mass very quickly on March 15th and it was surely a wonderful thing to be able to provide—but—it lacked the personal and communal sense of parish that is so heartwarming.

Our parish community, became a ministry of presence from a distance, and people had to learn to make a 'Spiritual Communion'. We then offered *'drive-by Confessions and Communion'* and this helped fill the void.

Now, we are in the process of opening up again. It is wonderful to be with the faithful again experiencing the sense of community, both at our limited Sunday Mass and at the outdoor chapel Saturday Mass. People are enjoying these options, especially being outdoors and relaxing in lawn chairs—still—it is very different. There are masks and social distancing from people, there are empty holy water fonts, no hymnals or choir, no offertory procession, no baskets passed for the collection, no sense of touch with the sign of peace—and not even cushions on the pews!

As we look ahead, we will have more changes with the new normal. There will be no Mission trip for the teens, no Sunday morning breakfast, no CCD classes in our building, no Christmas play with the kids, no send off mass for the Confirmation class, no retreat for them at Assumption College, no Giving Tree, no winter coat collection, no baby bottle program...and list goes on.

Our one constant in this 'new normal' is that we have our faith. Perhaps you will notice the wonderful changes in the way you pray. This new normal brings us to the reality of powerlessness and the need to 'surrender' more deeply with more trust in God. Also, you might notice that your prayers have become prayers of gratitude because of what we are experiencing. We are learning to live in the present and to be grateful for what we have.

My prayer for you and your family is that we all move through this time by keeping **'FAITH'** as our very special goal. God bless each and everyone of you.

Keep the Faith! Father S.