A Letter from Fr. Tom McMichael,  
Pastor of the Skagit Valley Catholic Churches

Dear Friends:

This week I share with you a letter written by Pope Francis reminding us that May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary and encouraging us—especially in this time of COVID-19—to join him in praying the Rosary daily. For those who do not know how to pray the Rosary and those who need a refresher, the Holy Father’s letter includes a link to the Vatican website and instructions on “How to Pray the Rosary.” A simple printable “help sheet” for praying the Rosary this month that includes Pope Francis’ two new prayers to Our Lady can be found at: https://wherepeteris.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/May-2020-Rosary-Guide.pdf.

Easter blessings,

Fr. Tom

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In order for Jesus to be born, God wanted to prepare a special mother for him. From the moment that Mary was conceived in her own mother's womb (St. Anne), Mary was without the stain of original sin. Throughout her entire life, Mary never sinned and was always a faithful servant to God. Use the month of Mary to learn more about Mary and talk with your kids about her special place in our faith.

May is for Mary!

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Queridos amigos:

Esta semana comparto con ustedes una carta escrita por el Papa Francisco recordándonos que mayo es el mes de la Santísima Virgen María y animándonos, especialmente en esta época de COVID-19, a unirnos a él para rezar el Rosario todos los días. Para aquellos que no saben cómo rezar el Rosario y aquellos que necesitan un repaso, la carta del Santo Padre incluye un enlace al sitio web del Vaticano e instrucciones sobre "Cómo rezar el Rosario". Puede encontrar una simple "hoja de ayuda" imprimible para rezar el Rosario este mes que incluye las dos nuevas oraciones del Papa Francisco a Nuestra Señora en: https://wherepeteris.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/May-2020-Rosary-Guide.pdf

Bendiciones de pascua,

El P. Tom
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Se aproxima el mes de mayo, en el que el pueblo de Dios manifiesta con particular intensidad su amor y devoción a la Virgen María. En este mes, es tradición rezar el Rosario en casa, con la familia. Las restricciones de la pandemia nos han “obligado” a valorizar esta dimensión doméstica, también desde un punto de vista espiritual.

Por eso, he pensado proponerles a todos que redescubramos la belleza de rezar el Rosario en casa durante el mes de mayo. Ustedes pueden elegir, según la situación, rezarlo juntos o de manera personal, apreciando lo bueno de ambas posibilidades. Pero, en cualquier caso, hay un secreto para hacerlo: la sencillez; y es fácil encontrar, incluso en internet, buenos esquemas de oración para seguir.

Además, les ofrezco dos textos de oraciones a la Virgen que pueden recitar al final del Rosario, y que yo mismo diré durante el mes de mayo, unido espiritualmente a ustedes. Los adjunto a esta carta para que estén a disposición de todos.

Queridos hermanos y hermanas: Contemplar juntos el rostro de Cristo con el corazón de María, nuestra Madre, nos unirá todavía más como familia espiritual y nos ayudará a superar esta prueba. Rezaré por ustedes, especialmente por los que más sufren, y ustedes, por favor, recen por mi. Les agradecer y los bendigo de corazón.

Roma, San Juan de Letrán, 25 de abril de 2020
Fiesta de san Marcos, evangelista
St. Charles, pray for us.

St. Charles Catholic Church
Friday from 3:00 to 9:00 pm open for prayer
Priest present from 3:00 to 4:00 pm and from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Iglesia católica de San Carlos
Viernes de 3:00 a 9:00 pm abierto para la oración Sacerdote presente de 3:00 a 4:00 pm y de 7:00 a 8:00 pm

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am open for prayer
Thursday 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm for prayer
Priest present from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Iglesia Católica de la Inmaculada Concepción
De lunes a viernes de 7:00 a.m. a 9:00 a.m., abierto para la oración
Jueves 1:00 pm a 7:00 pm para la oración
Sacerdote presente de 4:00 a 6:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 am for prayer
Priest present from 9:00 to 10:00 am

Iglesia Católica del Sagrado Corazón
Viernes de 9:00 a 10:00 am

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm open for prayer
Priest present from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Iglesia Católica del Inmaculado Corazón de María
Miércoles de 10:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m., abierto para la oración
Sacerdote presente de 11:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m

For the Week of May 10, 2020
That in imitation of Mary, our Mother, we may show forth awe and wonder for the gift of human life, let us pray to the Lord…
That those who have died may be brought to the glory of God’s heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord…
For sick and infirm, that their patient suffering may show forth the presence of God as a source of their strength, let us pray to the Lord…

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClzWT2xFoX7j11bwMeH5yQQ
The shortfall of ($916) indicated here is due to the transfer of $11,000 from the maintenance fund to the general fund at the donor’s suggestion. Thank you for your thoughtfulness during this difficult time.

### St. Charles Catholic Church current financial status

**2020 Stewardship of Treasure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July to April Income</td>
<td>$275,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July to April Expenses</td>
<td>$276,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortfall</td>
<td>$ (916)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contributions through online giving have increased substantially – thank you for choosing this alternative.

The St. Charles Parish website is located at: [www.stcharles-burlington-wa.org](http://www.stcharles-burlington-wa.org)

The online giving icon is on the first page of the website.

**Did you know?**

The CARES Act, the $2.2 trillion COVID-19 recovery bill signed into law in late March, includes several provisions to spur charitable giving. The CARES Act adds a new above-the-line deduction, available in 2020 and future years, for up to $300 of cash contributions made to a qualified charitable organization. This deduction is in addition to and does not take away from the standard deduction.

La Ley CARES, el proyecto de ley de recuperación de $ 2.2 billones COVID-19 firmado a fines de marzo, incluye varias disposiciones para estimular las donaciones de caridad. La Ley CARES agrega una nueva deducción por encima de la línea, disponible en 2020 y años futuros, por hasta $ 300 de contribuciones en efectivo hechas a una organización benéfica calificada. Esta deducción es adicional y no quita la deducción estándar.

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### Immaculate Conception Regional School

- ICRS is excited to announce that we are offering FULL-Day 4-year old Kindergarten Readiness program (preschool). We have 16 seats available for the 2020-21 school year. Email the school admissions office at bveltri@icrsweb.org for more information.

- Immaculate Conception Regional School is now accepting online applications for next year for grades pre-k through 8th. School admittance is done on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please email the school admissions office at bveltri@icrsweb.org for application information, or go to the school website for more information. [www.ICRSWEB.org](http://www.ICRSWEB.org)

- You can now find more information about ICRS on FaceBook and YouTube. Use the links below for informative videos about ICRS.
TriParish Food Bank

Located on the campus of St. Charles Catholic Church in Burlington.

Distribution Saturday
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
All are welcome

Financial Support – Thank you to our parishioners and our community!

We have received a great outpouring of financial support during this COVID-19 pandemic from our parishioners as well as the local and beyond community.

Your contribution helps us to provide the food needed to serve the approximate 600 families we are now serving each week.

Contributions to the Food Bank can be made via our Online Giving Program with St. Charles Catholic Church – there is a special category for the Food Bank, by mail or in person.

Thank you for your generosity.

May 2, 2020 Distribution Day

Today we served 676 families. The families drive up to receive a box of food and if they do not yet have a face mask then we provide one that was hand made by local families – more on this next week.

Thank you for your support

Friday, May 1, 2020 we had the Holy Land Pilgrimage group led by Mike Compton and the Sacred Heart youth group led by Shari Mentel assisting with preparing 600 boxes for distribution on Saturday – THANK YOU!

Contact information

Lilia Ortiz is the Director of Operations and Bonnie Baker is the Director of Administration for our TriParish Food Bank. They may be contacted by email at: lilia@skagitcatholic.org   bonnie@skagitcatholic.org

Diapers

If you are looking for a way to help moms and kids in these critical times, our TriParish Food Bank is in great need of diapers: sizes 4, 5, 6. Please drop off donations at the food bank on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 10:00 to 3:00 pm. Contact Claudia Doneen for additional information at: ddoneen@msn.com