



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — July 22, 2020

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## From Our Bishop

### Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord

*(This is a transcript of a video message.)*

This is Bishop Hughes in the Diocese of Newark. The 31st Psalm ends with these words: "Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord."

Those words give me such encouragement and I hope they give you encouragement too. Because there is something I have come to see and that I know with every fiber of my being. That in this time where we have so often had to wait on our Lord and looked with all of the energy that we had to see what our Lord had in store for us, but so often we have had to be strong, and so often our hearts have taken courage.

I'm aware that in these four months that we have been out of our churches, that our ministries have grown far beyond our churches. That we are touching lives, that we are feeding people, that we are encouraging the lonely, that we are reaching out to those who are mentally fragile in their health, that we have continued being community to each other and to those around us, and that we've done that from a place of strength. And sometimes a place of strength that we didn't even know we had.

"Be strong, and have courage in your heart, all you who wait for the Lord."

You have been strong. You are strong. You will continue to be strong. And sometimes when you're strong, you will cry. And sometimes when you're strong, you will be angry. And sometimes when you're strong, you'll have words of confusion and worry cross your lips and nothing but questions. And you may not feel strong in those times, but trust me, and trust God, to know, but in those times when you cry or when you're angry or frustrated or when you're confused and asking questions – that in those very times your heart is being courageous. And it is those moments when we are at our most courageous and we feel our least confident that God is able to do things with us and in us and through us.

This continues to be a complicated time. There is much to make us sorrowful, much to worry about, and so much that we have come to treasure. And usually the treasure has to do with friendships, with family, with relationships, with love, with compassion. Those things that we've come to treasure in this time, God has used to make us strong.

So fear not my friends – we will continue on as long as it takes. God will be with us every step of this pandemic, every bit of economic insecurity, every moment of protesting in our work to end racism and end white supremacy – God will continue to be with us.

"Be strong, let your heart take courage, all of us who wait for the Lord."

# Stories from Our Congregations

## Paused by pandemic, food pantry in Orange quickly adapts

By Nina Nicholson

When Epiphany, Orange and Christ Church, East Orange became one congregation in 2015, their well-established feeding ministries became one as well. Like the congregations, the feeding ministries relocated to the church building in Orange.

“The people just walked a little further up Main Street,” said Sharonda Bailey, Director of the food pantry.

The new Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church in Orange continued serving hot meals in the parish hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays, a ministry inherited from Christ Church, and on Saturdays along with a distribution of clothing and emergency grocery bags, a ministry inherited from Epiphany.

Then on March 14, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down their entire feeding ministry for nearly three full months. They were finally able to reopen on June 6.

“We set up tents and we bring everything outside,” said Bailey.

The food pantry is currently operating every Saturday from 11 AM until 1:30 PM. Eight to 10 parishioners work alongside volunteers from one of their four partner organizations – Families & Community Together (FACT), Outpost in the Burbs, Sathya Sai International Organization – USA and Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in West Orange.

Masks, gloves and hand sanitizer are provided to all volunteers, as well as to any clients who do not bring their own. Clients line up in the parking lot, six feet apart. Meals and emergency grocery bags are placed on tables for the clients to pick up in a contact-free distribution, while the volunteers write down their names.

Bag lunches have largely replaced the hot meals. However, Bailey notes that one of their partners is working to bring back hot meals for carry-out.

“Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel partnered with a local restaurant in Maplewood and South Orange that made hot meals for them. They've reached out to a few of the restaurants in the area to support Black businesses, and they're going to be making hot meals again – little takeaway lunches – which is great.”

Pre-pandemic, the food pantry would distribute 60 to 80 emergency grocery bags each Saturday, with food provided by the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark. A family could take one emergency grocery bag a month.

“Now whoever comes can grab a bag,” said Bailey, and the number of food items in the bags has been increased.

The one ministry they haven't been able to continue during the pandemic is the distribution of clothing. “Because we're outside in the parking lot, we're not equipped to set up to give out clothes just yet,” Bailey said.

When asked what the food pantry needs most right now, Bailey doesn't hesitate: “A large commercial freezer.”

She explains, “One Saturday a month we get a truckload of food from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and a lot of it is frozen meats. We only have one large commercial freezer that we're housing all this in, and what we've been doing is, for us not to have the food go to waste, we've just been giving people extra meat. So the support of purchasing a new additional commercial freezer would be excellent.”

*The Diocese of Newark has set up online giving to support the diocese's food pantries. Simply visit [e-giving.dioceseofnewark.org](https://www.e-giving.dioceseofnewark.org) and go to Area of Greatest Need: Food Pantries (second item from the top). Donations made from July 22 through August 4, 2020 will go to the food pantry at the Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange.*

# Diocesan Resources & Announcements

## Upcoming ordinations (streamed live online)

### **Ordination to the Priesthood:**

**The Rev. Deacon Jill Williams**

*Saturday, July 25, 10 AM*

### **Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate:**

**Sun-Hwan Spriggs and Virginia Whatley**

*Wednesday, July 29, 6 PM*

Because in-person participants are strictly limited in number, both these services will be streamed live to the diocesan YouTube channel at [youtube.com/c/dionewark](https://youtube.com/c/dionewark), where all are invited to join us online for these joyous celebrations.

## Clergy ministry transitions

### **Departures**

- **The Rev. Matthew Corkern**, Rector, Calvary, Summit - June 27

### **Arrivals**

- **The Rev. Karen Rezach**, Priest-in-Charge, Grace, Rutherford - June 1
- **The Rev. Melanie Barbarito**, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Calvary, Summit - August 1

## Prayers of Pandemic from the Diocese of Newark

Bishop Hughes has invited members of the diocese to write and share their own prayers during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are collecting these prayers on the diocesan website and sharing them in *The VOICE* and on social media.

Prayers can be sent to Canon Wright at [awright@dioceseofnewark.org](mailto:awright@dioceseofnewark.org) for posting. Please include the name and town of your church.

### **A prayer written by Sr. Monica Clare, Community of St. John the Baptist, Mendham**

Oh God of love and peace, help us to survive each day,  
in the midst of things we cannot understand,  
To those of us who are afraid, give us courage  
To those of us who are exhausted, give us strength  
To those of us in despair, give us hope.  
Comfort us in our struggle, O Loving God,  
Walk with us through this time of crisis,  
Grant us and our loved ones' safety, security and stability,  
and help us to learn the lessons you are giving us at this time, so that we may all work together to rebuild our lives, and make the world a better place.  
In the name of our loving Creator we pray, Amen.