

PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – #1 (7/17/20)

WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE:

- **PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. ED SHIKINA**
- **WEEKDAY MASSES**
- **KENTON – FESTIVAL UPDATE #3 - REPEAT**
- **WEEKEND MASSES – REMINDERS**
- **LIVESTREAM MASS SCHEDULE**
- **SOCIAL-DISTANCED CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. ED SHIKINA

Hello everyone,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

First things first – my name! I was debating back and forth what I should be called. At my last parish, we had a grade school, so I went by Fr. Ed so that it would be easy for the little kids to call me by name, but some have told me that as pastor, I should go by my last name, Fr. Shikina. It's not too hard to pronounce (Shi-kee-nuh), just like it's spelled. However, I realize already that some have a hard time with it, including myself, as I am used to introducing myself as Fr. Ed! So, Fr. Ed it is.

Second, about myself...I was born in Missouri. My parents came to the states from Okinawa, Japan. I have two older sisters and one younger brother. Soon after I was born, my family moved to Lafayette, Louisiana where we lived for 11 yrs. My dad then got a job in Columbus, Ohio and moved the family there. I've been in Ohio ever since. I went to Ohio State and played the trumpet in the OSU Marching Band for three years. Unfortunately, I flunked out of Ohio State after that (I hardly attended class!). I started working full time at a paper distribution company, then became the store manager. At age 24, I began discerning a call to the priesthood when I received a brochure in the mail from a religious organization asking if I had ever considered becoming a priest. I really took it as a sign from God that that's what I should do! As I thought about the priesthood, but not yet ready to enter seminary, I continued work as an outside lumber salesman, then moved on to driving a warehouse forklift, then worked at an Information Technology helpdesk. By age 34, I was finally ready to enter seminary. I went to the Pontifical College Josephinum as well as Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary near Boston. I was ordained to the priesthood in May 2018, at age 42. I am currently 44 but people say I look half my age, so don't be shocked when it looks like a college kid is saying Mass. I have been a priest now for two years and was assigned as the Parochial Vicar at St. Brendan the Navigator parish in Hilliard, Ohio, a big suburban parish. I am hopeful that by being at Our Lady of Lourdes and Immaculate Conception parishes, I will get to know you all much better.

My pastor's update will contain information that is new as well as information that is repeated, but still important. New information will be in **BLACK**. Repeated information will be in **BLUE**. For now, I will continue doing most things as Fr. Ferguson was doing it to give you all a sense of continuity (change is hard!) and also because he may have had reasons for doing things a certain way. I will need time to get up to speed on the organization of these two parishes (Fr. Ferguson left me a whole stack of notes to read) so please be patient with me if I make mistakes or am slow to respond. I will try to be transparent and explain things if I do make changes. Any changes I make will be for what I think is for the good of the parish(es) and/or for pastoral reasons. I will of course take counsel from a variety of sources such as parish council, finance council, and you, the parishioner, for any major changes.

Fr. Ferguson was very helpful in wrapping things up before he left. He formed the new parish council at OLL and already had a first meeting. I was in attendance over Zoom and was pleased with those on the council. I can say the same about the ICC council.

Some pressing items that I will be addressing soon are the BAA (delayed kick-off weekend and will happen soon), parish financial reports for the year, and the PSR program for the upcoming school year.

Given the news of the Ada pool employee who tested positive for Covid-19, we are reminded of the need to be vigilant. It is indeed a sacrifice to have to wear a mask at Mass and follow all the safety protocols, but please consider the safety of your fellow brothers and sisters. As Bishop Brennan said, it is a time for extreme charity. There is no time limit on charity. Be reminded as well of the safety protocol that Fr. Ferguson put in place regarding coming to the parish office in Ada. If you are doing any business at the office with Deb Driscoll, please call ahead.

I will hear confessions in the safe manner as Fr. Ferguson was doing it but will do it by appointment for now, rather than the limited time slot. Please email me at eshikina@columbuscatholic.org or call the office.

We are all in this together. I look forward to serving you and walking this spiritual journey with you as your pastor. I look forward to meeting you as well in the days and weeks ahead.

Our Mother Mary, Patron of our Hardin County Parishes, Pray for Us.

- Fr. Ed Shikina, Pastor

WEEKDAY MASSES

For **Weekday Masses**, I am going to continue the existing "split schedule" until things get back to normal.

REPEATED INFORMATION:

KENTON – FESTIVAL UPDATE #3 - REPEAT

Please see the Update (“CC”) for the most recent information about the ICC Parish Festival, slated to take place Sunday 9 August during the limited hours of Noon to 7:00 pm (assuming the State of Ohio expands limits on groups by then).

Just a reminder on the following requests from the Committee:

- We need **Theme Baskets** to be donated – BUT THIS YEAR, **ALL ITEMS FOR THE THEME BASKETS MUST BE “PRE-PACKAGED” INTO THEIR BASKETS**; THE BASKET TEAM WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ASSEMBLE THE ACTUAL BASKETS DUE TO TIME LIMITATIONS AND SANITATION CONCERNS. (Gift Certificates may be dropped off in envelopes.)
- We need items donated for the **Country Store**
- We need monetary donations toward the **Chicken Dinner**
- We **WILL NOT** be taking **ANY** homemade food donations for the dinner, and there will be no cake wheel

To drop off donations, please contact Kathy Klingelhofer at the office to arrange a time by calling the office at 419-675-1162. **For other questions or to get involved with the planning or volunteering**, feel free to contact Kate Johnson at 567-674-8533. Thank you!

WEEKEND MASSES – REMINDERS

BASIC INFORMATION:

1. This weekend, of course, we continue public Masses, as allowed by our Ohio Bishops. Please note that we are observing the usual “summer” cluster Mass schedule:

Kenton: Sat 4:00 pm and Sun 9:00 am

Ada: Sat 5:30 pm and Sun 11:00 pm (remember that last year we had already decided that the 8:30 Mass would only be a “school year” Mass)

The usual **Saturday Confessions will not take place**; they will continue in the social-distanced format by appointment with Fr. Ed.

Remember that the **obligation to come to Mass is dispensed until September 13** by the Ohio Bishops. You are not under any requirement to come if you do not feel comfortable in doing so. We will therefore continue to offer Livestreaming (on a rotational-location basis). See the Livestream section below for more information.

BEFORE COMING TO MASS:

According to the Diocese, those who are in **“high risk” demographics** or who have symptoms “are especially cautioned to avoid public gatherings, including Mass”. Please use your discretion and consult with a physician as needed.

1. **Masks:** As you noted in Bishop's Guidelines, **all people in the pews on-site for Mass need to wear some sort of face covering.** The only exceptions are 1) those under age two, 2) when individuals are serving a liturgical role in the sanctuary itself, or 3) when you come up for Holy Communion. I know it is awkward and unpleasant to wear masks, but please cooperate with this directive of our Bishop. If you happen to forget to bring one, we will have a very limited supply of extra masks in the narthex of each church.
2. Do **"hand hygiene" at home** before coming.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU COME ON-SITE

1. Please make sure you **always maintain safe distance from everyone else** – 6 feet apart. I know it will be exciting to see everyone else after so long apart, but please refrain from the urge to run up and hug others, and please keep an eye on your children to make sure they don't do the same.
2. There will be **sanitizer** everywhere; please take a squirt when entering and when leaving.
3. Based on Bishop's Guidelines about social distancing, we have had to **close off every other pew** for social-distanced seating, and to space chairs apart in our "overflow" areas at each parish. We will be not be able to use every seat. Seating is more limited than before.
4. **FAMILY MEMBERS CAN SIT TOGETHER** within a pew.
5. **INDIVIDUALS MUST SIT 6' APART OR FROM THE NEAREST FAMILY.** On a practical level, this means that only 2 individuals are able to sit in an Ada pew or row of chairs, and only 3 individuals can sit in a Kenton pew.
6. Based on Bishop's Guidelines, we had to **remove hymnals and missalettes** and all other "papers" from the pews, to reduce surfaces to contaminate.
7. You are **not expected to try to sing** while wearing your masks; in fact, it is discouraged so as to reduce the potential spread of air-borne germs. The cantor and clergy will sing the hymns and responses for you.
8. There will be **no Offertory Procession** or the use of the **Sign of Peace** (shaking hands).
9. But a **collection** (using the long-handled baskets) will still take place.
10. **Bulletins** will only be passed out at the END OF MASS, so that they can be taken directly home and not handled in the pews.

HOLY COMMUNION

1. Based on **Bishop Brennan's directives and preferences**, we will still offer Holy Communion during Mass itself, but with the following points:
2. The **Precious Blood** will not be distributed except to Dcn. Mike or to our Instituted Acolyte.
3. We will have only **one line for Communion** (not two) in the aisle.
4. Therefore, and to reduce numbers in the sanctuary, we will **not need any EOMHC's.**
5. When you come for Communion, please maintain a **6-foot distance** between people in the aisle. There will be tape markings on the floor to assist.
6. **Remove your mask** before coming for Communion, according to guidance given by Bishop.
7. Bishop strongly prefers people to receive Communion **"in the hand"** to reduce potential contact with saliva, etc.
8. You should not wear gloves to receive Communion.
9. **Note for Ada:** Those seated in the Social Hall should **REMAIN IN THE HALL** for Communion; the clergy will come to you, which sometimes may have to occur after the main body has been tended to. **DO NOT** migrate into the main body of the church to join its Communion line.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

1. **After each Mass**, we will need a **few volunteers** to stay for a few minutes **to help sanitize** the pews that were used, handles, knobs, etc). Please consider helping with this. We will have gloves and cleaning supplies and cloths available.
2. We **may need** extra volunteers for **ushers** at some Masses to help with the Collection, depending on whether our regular ushers feel comfortable with coming to a given Mass. Please be alert and step forward if no one seems to be taking up the Collection.

NOTES FOR LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS

1. Bishop wants to keep people in the sanctuary to a minimum. As such, we will have only one lector and one server for a Mass, in addition to the musicians.
2. **Lectors:** You are welcome to sit in a designated “Lector Chair” in the sanctuary between the readings. Be prepared to also do the Psalm on the occasions when we may not have a Cantor.
3. **Servers:** Your roles will be simplified for Masses, and I will give you instructions before Mass begins. Specifically, you do not need to “hold the Sacramentary” for the priest, and you will not need to set up the altar (Deacon or Acolyte will do that), nor the “washing of hands”. You will mainly assist with the Processional/Recessional Cross, the “bells”, and helping with the clearing of the altar.
4. **EOMHC’s** – as noted above, we will not need any EOMHC’s since we will have only 1 (or Ada’s 2) Communion locations. We will nearly always have either Deacon Mike or Acolyte Nick with us.
5. Remember, Bishop has indicated that those ministering in the sanctuary ought not to wear masks as they perform their duties while they are in the sanctuary (or in a procession).
6. **Ushers:** Please assist with parishioners upon arrival to show them the sanitizer, to help find seats which are socially distant as described above; continue to take up the Collection, but please immediately bring the collection into the Sacristy for safe keeping during Mass. There will be no Offertory (Gifts) Procession.
7. **Counters:** Kathy or Desiree will be in contact with you on how to go about counting the collection depending upon your comfort level and ability to attend. Please contact them for questions.

LIVESTREAM MASS SCHEDULE

We will continue to offer Livestreamed Cluster Masses for the benefit of those who are not ready or comfortable with coming on-site for Mass. This is being “rotated” between the two parishes each week.

According to the rotation, **Livestreaming will be from OLL this weekend (July 19)** at the **11:00 am Mass**. The rotation will then continue to alternate between both parishes’ Sunday morning Mass, such that it goes “back and forth” each week between the times of 9:00 and 11:00.

To access this weekend’s Livestream Mass, please use the usual link we have been using: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVxcsTyz-ukNpEDHVkQWKVw>.

If it helps, there is now also a shortened link to the livestream YouTube channel: tinyurl.com/OLLAda

Attached to this Update is this weekend's Livestream Mass **Worship Aid** for those viewing from home. (For those coming on-site, please DO NOT print this out and bring it with you, since we have been directed by the Diocese not to have hymnals or other papers in the pews, to reduce "surfaces" that could be contaminated.)

Also attached to this Update is this weekend's **bulletin for Kenton** and a **bulletin for Ada**.

SOCIAL-DISTANCED CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Reminder that we are still offering the new "Social-Distanced COVID **Confessions By Appointment**" instead of the previous "Saturday" confession times. Please see the Confessions attachment on the parish websites for the particulars; appointments can be made by calling me at 419-634-2626 (leave a message if needed) or by email. MASKS ARE NEEDED.