

Father Ed's update to parishioners – #2 (7/24/20)

Greetings everyone!

In my first pastor's update last week, I mentioned that we should be vigilant in protecting each other from the Coronavirus, which meant calling ahead before visiting the parish office. However, I had only mentioned Deb in the office at OLL in Ada. Thus, I made the rookie mistake of forgetting about Kathy at ICC in Kenton. Already I understand one of the difficulties that all of you at Immaculate Conception must be feeling which is that since you do not have a resident pastor, you must feel like orphans. I want to apologize and to assure you that I will not forget you or leave you as orphans. I will do my best to minister to you equally.

Kenton Festival cancellation

I have had to make the difficult decision of cancelling the Kenton parish festival (this week's bulletin was already printed before this decision). Many factors came into play, but all as a result of Covid, such as: many volunteers being elderly and at risk, or not volunteering at all; difficulty in maintaining social distance; possible lack of attendees, making it a loss for the parish, especially when our offertory is down significantly, etc., not to mention that Hardin County just went up to a level 3 yesterday. The festival chair, Kate Johnson, and the other committee members were in agreement. Many thanks to those who had already done work in preparation for the festival.

Offertory

Our offertory is down significantly. I know that many of you are not attending Mass physically and you might normally drop your offertory in the collection basket. Some of you may be experiencing financial difficulty during this time, so please do not feel pressure to contribute financially. For those of you who can, please continue to contribute to your parish by mailing in your offertory if you are not coming to Mass. In Ada, you can also drop it in the mail slot at the parish office (the red house 2 doors down from the church).

Bishop's Annual Appeal

One of the ways we can support the church's mission is through the Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA). Though we are small local churches, we still belong to the wider church community, especially in the Diocese of Columbus, and we do have an impact in the diocese. Our BAA contributions have had a direct return on investment for us. Our deacon candidate, Nick Klear's, diaconate training has been funded by the money contributed to the BAA. My own seminary formation to be a priest has been funded from the BAA. The BAA also helps spiritual programs, parish life, and social concerns, to name a few. Anything that you can contribute is greatly appreciated, and if we go over our goal, any money over that goal comes back to the parish. BAA envelopes will be mailed out to each household, but the easiest and fastest way to give to the BAA is by going online at <https://columbuscatholicgiving.org/baa> . I gave online yesterday and it was pretty simple.

Fr Jeffrey celebrating public Mass again

I am grateful to Fr. Jeffrey for celebrating public Mass again. He celebrated Friday morning's Mass at ICC and will celebrate the weekend's Masses at ICC. Fr. Jeffrey would like to be cautious regarding the virus so he has asked that no ministers be with him in the sanctuary for the Masses. He will do everything himself, which means setting up, cleaning up, and lecturing. He will distribute communion with the same proper precautions of wearing a mask. He and I will rotate parishes every weekend as had been done before. If you are already signed up to minister at the Masses in which he will preside, I thank you for your willingness to step back.

Wearing masks during communion

I ask that the protocol for coming up to receive communion is to keep your mask on, to say "Amen" with your mask on, and then once the priest gives you the Eucharist, you then lift the mask and consume the host. This will help prevent exposure to the priest since both are in close quarters at that moment. Note that you are not banned from receiving on the tongue, but encouraged at this time to receive in the hand. If you receive on the tongue, just lift the mask as you come up so the priest knows this is your preference. As an illustration, here is a humorous video that I helped make at my previous parish regarding coming to Mass during this time (you won't need to put the mask on in the parking lot or be dismissed by pews at the end of Mass as shown in the video). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p5dP1_K6ys

Live-stream audio

My thanks to Steve Johnson who has worked on improving the audio quality for our live-stream Masses. Steve is the one who has been coordinating the live-streamed Masses on his laptop at both parishes. Hopefully you will notice a difference this weekend. If it does not work as planned, my apologies. Please be patient as we continue to work out the kinks. We may even try to use the camera in the church in Ada which hangs in the corner of the balcony.

Live-stream Mass this weekend

The live-stream Mass this weekend will be from Our Lady of Lourdes which means it will be at 11am.

God bless!

Fr. Ed