

PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – BB (6/19/20)

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PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON

Greetings in the Lord!

Today (Friday) is a special day – the **Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!** (The Church celebrates this every year on the Friday after Corpus Christi).

This special day originates from some miraculous appearances of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque – a nun from 17th Century France – in which Jesus desired St. Margaret to share with the world His great compassion and love for us no matter the trials we experience. He revealed to St. Margaret His love for the world using the image of His heart aflame. The current devotions in honor of the Sacred Heart – including the famous image of Jesus with His heart on fire – come from this time period. And if there is ever a time when we need to be assured of the love of Jesus in the midst of challenges – whether it be COVID, civil unrest, unemployment, etc – now is the time. May we take some time today as disciples of the Lord to rest in the loving presence of Jesus in our personal contemplative prayer.

Today's "UPDATE – BB" includes material to help us prepare for this weekend's Masses, whether you are able to come "on-site" or must remain at home. **If you come "on-site", please plan to wear a face covering per the directives of Bishop Brennan.** (We have a few extra masks in the narthex if you forget to bring one). I re-post **some important reminders for those who come on-site for Masses.**

We also have some special parish events occurring this weekend, including a prayer to end racism being held TONIGHT. Please see below.

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

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

BOTH PARISHES: PRAYER TO END RACISM TONIGHT (FRIDAY)

As announced at Masses last weekend, there is a **prayer service** being planned tonight (**Friday 19 June**) on this Solemnity of **The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** as a community with the intention of praying for an **end of racism and discrimination in our culture.** The prayer service, beginning **tonight (Friday) at 6:30 pm** and lasting approximately 45-60 minutes, will take place **outdoors at the Grotto in the courtyard of Our Lady of Lourdes.** The service will consist of a reading of sacred scripture and reflection, recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary, and meditations for each Mystery.

All are invited to join either in person or via live stream. For those joining in person, we ask that a mask be worn and social distancing be maintained.

If you are not able to join us in person, we will live stream the prayer service which can be accessed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVxcsTyz-ukNpEDHVkQWKVw>

Any questions, please contact Steve Johnson @ sjohnsonpv@gmail.com or 330-268-2074. All are welcome to come to pray for this important social justice issue.

KENTON – PRAY FOR OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

Tomorrow, Saturday 20 June 2020, we have the joy of celebrating the first reception of the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** for four of our youth: Christopher Villa, Owen Stuck, Chloe Scharf, and Finnegan Sprang. **Please pray for these young disciples**, that they each grow stronger in his or her relationship with Jesus as they continue to encounter the Lord in the Holy Mass and in their daily life of discipleship as they continues to grow up.

(Please note that, unfortunately, due to the limited seating due to COVID, we will not be able to have the general population attend the Mass, in order to allow enough seating for the families and relatives involved.)

START OF 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)
2. The usual **Saturday Confessions will not take place**; they will continue in the social-distanced format on Wednesdays and Sundays on a rotational basis as described in past updates. See the section below for an updated schedule.
3. 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:

1. 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.
2. **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.
3. 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 the 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 Our Lady of Lourdes this weekend (June 21)** 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>

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**.

WEEKDAY MASSES

For **Weekday Masses**, please note that we will observe what we normally have done in the past with our “August Mass Schedule”. Therefore, we will offer DAILY MASSES as follows, all at 9:00 am:

Ada: on Mondays and Tuesdays

Kenton: on Wednesdays and Fridays

Update: This weekday schedule will continue at least through Friday 3 July 2020.

UPDATED 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). The following is continuation of the “rotated” schedule of dates and places:

SUN 21 JUNE 4:00-6:00 @ ADA

WED 24 JUNE 4:00-6:00 @ KENTON ~ SUN 28 JUNE 4:00-6:00 @ KENTON

WED 1 JULY 4:00-6:00 @ ADA ~ SUN 5 JULY 4:00-6:00 @ ADA
WED 8 JULY 4:00-6:00 @ KENTON ~ SUN 12 JULY 4:00-6:00 @ KENTON
WED 15 JULY – CANCELLED

NOTE: **After Fr. Shikina arrives** (on Tues 14 July), the plans for how to offer Confessions beyond that date will be determined by him at that time.

BOTH PARISHES: REMINDER – FOREIGN MISSION APPEAL

Thanks to all who supported our **annual Foreign Mission Appeal this past weekend** at the Masses. As I mentioned, we were asked by our Diocese Missions Office to support this year the needs of the **Diocese of Moshi, in the country of Tanzania (Africa)**. There have been some requests to reproduce the letter that was sent to our parishes from Fr. Peter Asantebwana (who is currently assisting in our Diocese temporarily), most of which I shared verbally during last week's homily. **If you did not have a chance** to support this annual Missions appeal, please send in a contribution marked "Mission Appeal" to either parish office. Thanks for your support! Fr. Peter's full letter follows.

Dear parishioners, first of all many thanks to Most Rev Robert Brennan, Mission Office and Our Pastor Rev. William Ferguson for accepting the Diocese of Moshi the share with you her missionary experience. Thank you, dear parishioners, for your warm and generous heart to missionaries who visit you every year sharing the missionary experiences of their Mission. I believe the faith that is shared is the faith that is strengthened.

Many thanks to the MCP support that helped in constructing the school (St Pamachus High School) for the children with special needs. It was opened officially on January 2019 with 96 children in the first intake.

The Diocese of Moshi is in Tanzania, East Africa; it was evangelized by Holy Ghost missionaries who were from the United States, Ireland and France. They did not only preach the Gospel and administer sacraments, but also build churches, schools and hospitals. People educated in these schools are now priests, teachers, leaders and even myself. The missionaries are no longer in the Diocese. The indigenous Bishops, Priests and lay people are continuing the work started by these Missionaries.

My Diocese undertakes many spiritual and social activities for God's people; most notable are health and educational services to orphans left behind by HIV/AIDS parents, mother and father child health care in remote areas. We have 97 major seminarians who depend directly on Bishop for their college expenses in different Major Seminaries. To accomplish some of these services, the Diocese owns and manages some schools many including two Nursing colleges, five hospitals, 44 Dispensaries, 35 high schools, 15 vocational training centers and more than 50 Kindergartens.

Currently the Diocese of Moshi has 15 priests in a retirement center who depend totally on the Bishop for their livelihood. These priests worked hard with the missionaries in building schools, churches and hospitals. They were not paid anything and they do not have any social security or benefit. Your support is key in helping these priests who after long life time of service are no longer able to move around. They are relying on nurses/trained aides to help them. They do not have social security since all priests work as volunteers and do not have salaries like those in developed countries.

St John Paul II said that "We are all called to do mission, some people do the mission by going to the mission while others do the mission by prayers and donations or material support." You can support the mission by contributing to the second collections today. Also St. Theresa of Calcutta said "If you cannot feed a 100 people now, then just feed one" Today you and I are invited to show solidarity and join the missionaries in mission land who sacrificed their meals, time and other material things for love of God and neighbor. *During my first days in US I was invited for a dinner. When at the restaurant instead of looking the food of my choice I was looking at the prices and try to recall back home. The bill for the food I took was \$26 that could be used to give one lunch for these 16 elderly priests at the retirement but for I used it in a single meal.*

You can sacrifice a lunch/dinner/movie or whatever you see is fitting and by that you will be touching and changing the life of these elderly priests completely. People pray for missionaries and benefactors. You are remembered in these prayers as well. That is why I said faith shared is faith strengthened.