

## **PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – C (3/20/20)**

### **WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE:**

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### **PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON**

Greetings!

On this Friday of the Third Week of Lent, we continue to unite our sufferings to the Crucified Lord Jesus as we persevere in our current challenges of staying strong in our Faith in light of being unable to physically assemble in the presence of the Holy Eucharist. The Lord is still here to help us carry our crosses. Many thanks to all of you who have been pitching in to help our parishes continue our life of faith in these trying times! Please keep in prayer those who are most affected by the Coronavirus: the sick, our healthcare workers, the families of those who have passed, our civic leaders, the newly-unemployed, business owners, parents, and so many more. Together, as Catholic disciples and as citizens of our great Republic, we are courageous people of hope, and we will pull through with God's grace and help!

Today, I wanted to share some important updates; the following is a summary:

Most notably, thanks to Steve and Ann Johnson (who are infinitely more tech-savvy than your pastor), we have now the ability this Sunday to **live-stream a Cluster Mass from Our Lady of Lourdes** (since there is the technology and wifi already there in the church). Please see below for details and how to participate.

Also, please see below important updates regarding **access to parish buildings and the work of our staff**, based on directives given by Bishop Brennan.

Don't forget about the free **"FORMED" platform**, which you may use to take this time of "social-distancing" at home to go deeper in your Catholic faith!

A question has come up regarding **Weekend Offertory logistics**; please see the parish logistics section below for more information.

Thanks for all your help, and let me know if you have any questions! I plan to send out my next update on Sunday.

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

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor
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## **LIVE-STREAMED CLUSTER MASS ON SUNDAY**

On Sunday, with the Diocese's permission, we will live-stream a Mass which will be viewable on YouTube. The Mass will take place at 9:00 a.m. Here is the link to view the Mass:

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

Parishioners should just need to click the link and it will take you to our new YouTube page. You should see an image that day that says "Live"; click on that and be all set. Thanks to Steve & Ann Johnson for setting this up. We hope to do this each Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO BISHOP BRENNAN'S DIRECTIVES, **ABSOLUTELY NO PARISHIONERS MAY COME ON-SITE FOR THIS MASS** FOR HEALTH REASONS.

## **ARTICLE ON HOW TO MAKE A 'SPIRITUAL COMMUNION'**

Please check out this article on what a "Spiritual Communion" is, and how it can help during a Live-Streamed Mass:

<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/armstrong/if-you-cant-receive-communion-make-a-spiritual-communion>

## **REMINDER: OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECH-BASED MASSES AND DEVOTIONS + "FORMED"**

### **SUNDAY MASS:**

- Other tech options for remote Mass viewing:  
St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820 in Central Ohio, FM 88.3 in Southern Ohio and [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) on the web) broadcasts Mass from St. Joseph's Cathedral (AM Radio) and St. Mary's in Portsmouth (FM Radio) on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM. Sunday Masses are also viewable on both WWHO-TV Columbus and WHIZ-TV Zanesville in addition to other cable stations.

### **WEEKDAY MASS:**

- Bishop Brennan will celebrate daily Mass from the Cathedral which will be broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio at 12:05 p.m.
- Ann Johnson of OLL says that Notre Dame is going to livestream daily Mass at 11:30 AM throughout the week. Here's a link to their webpage: [https://www.google.com/url?q=https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/&source=gmail&ust=1584562136723000&usg=AFQjCNH2BSbXwE24bundbEK\\_QsbvXjGocQ](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/&source=gmail&ust=1584562136723000&usg=AFQjCNH2BSbXwE24bundbEK_QsbvXjGocQ) Contact Ann for questions.

### **DAILY DEVOTIONS:**

- A group of families from OLL has just started a tech-based group prayer session scheduled for every day at 3:00 pm accessible via phone or computer, making use of our common devotions such as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary, and Stations of the Cross. This opportunity is open to anyone at both parishes. To learn how to connect up with this daily communal prayer, contact Steve Johnson at [sjohnsonpv@gmail.com](mailto:sjohnsonpv@gmail.com).

- DAMASCUS CAMPUS has just released some online alternatives for family devotions, called "Damascus Live". It includes for each day: Prayer Lab (Bible study): 10:30-11:00am; Worship & Intercession: 3:00-4:00pm; Night-Live (family faith session): 7:30-8:30pm. Starts today (Thursday, March 19): "Join us LIVE on Damascus Facebook and Instagram for an experience of Christ in your own home. Each live stream is open to anyone free of charge, and will stream Monday - Friday with content for all ages. All videos will be posted on our Facebook page after each segment is complete. Go to the Damascus Facebook page." It is difficult to paste their entire promo e-mail here, so I suggest if you wish to join in, contact Sheila McMahon at [sheilamcmahon@damascuscampus.com](mailto:sheilamcmahon@damascuscampus.com) or call her at 740-480-1288.

## **FORMED:**

Remember that we have the FORMED online resource for Catholic study and prayer opportunities:

1. Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)
2. Click on "Sign Up"
3. Click on "I belong to a Parish or Organization"
4. 'Create New Account'
5. Under 'Find your Parish', search for "Immaculate Conception Church 222 East North Street Kenton" (Note: this is good for Our Lady of Lourdes, too; FORMED put our cluster subscription under Kenton's name)
6. Enter your email address and create a password
7. You should be ready to enter and use the site. The first time or two, you may need to enter a verification code that FORMED sends to your e-mail account.
8. Thereafter, from the device you set up the account on, simply go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and all you have to do is click on 'sign in' and click 'start watching'; the password does not need to be entered every time.
9. NOTE: the initial set-up procedure would need to be done on each separate device you use before using FORMED on that device, but, of course, you can use the same e-mail and password.

## **PARISH LOGISTICS**

### **UPDATE FROM BISHOP BRENNAN ABOUT ACCESS TO CHURCH BUILDINGS**

**Bishop Brennan this morning (Friday) sent a note to priests asking us to restrict access to church buildings even further than what he spoke about in his yesterday's Letter to the Faithful: Bishop does not want any parishioners to be making visits to parish buildings even for personal prayer. Parishioners are to stay home in order to help prevent the spread of the virus.**

**I will put signs up at the churches shortly (especially Ada today, since we have typically always kept it unlocked) to let folks know.**

**For Confessions, I will probably simply arrange to make visits to people's homes as they request Confessional appointments.**

### **OFFICE AVAILABILITY**

**Please be aware that the Diocese is asking that the only work done on-site by parish employees be things that can only be done on-site. They are really encouraging a work-from-home model. I have relayed this to our parish employees. Currently, Kathy will only be in the Kenton office in the mornings to do essential on-site work as needed. Deb will be on site in**

Ada as needed, too. I ask all parishioners to respect their social-distancing efforts by not visiting the offices unless it is absolutely necessary. Feel free to call or e-mail them anytime for parish business.

## **OFFERINGS**

**A question has come up about how to handle weekly Offertory donations. Obviously, we need to keep running our parishes (bills have to be paid, staff have to be paid, Jackie needs her tuna, etc.). I will leave it up to parishioners to decide either to A) mail in your donations/envelopes, and B) perhaps a more preferable option (to reduce possible contamination of mail with the virus en route) to keep track of your weekly amounts and to submit them as a "lump-sum" contribution when we are able to get back to "normal". I will give more advice as time goes on and as the virus situation progresses. Thanks for your understanding and flexibility, and ongoing support of our parish!**

## **REMINDER ON HEALTH RISKS**

I've been asked to share a reminder on who is at higher risk for contracting COVID-19 (high risk populations). Even though I do not profess to be a medical professional, the following information is readily available from many health-care sources. So, please continue practicing social-distancing and good sanitary practices:

- People over the age of 60
- People with disabilities
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions, such as
  - Heart disease
  - Diabetes
  - Lung disease