

PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – CC (6/26/20)

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PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON

Greetings in the Lord!

Things continue to be busy "behind the scenes" of our parishes, even though it is summer, whether it be the continued "re-opening" of our parishes due to COVID, or the transition to a new pastor.

I have had the chance to confer with **Fr. Shikina, your next pastor**, a few times to ensure a smooth transition, and he is very eager to begin starting on Tuesday July 14. In fact, Fr. Shikina participated via Zoom this past Wednesday during the first meeting of the **new Parish Council** that I recently got together for Our Lady of Lourdes (there had not been a Parish Council for Ada for upwards of a decade; thanks to our new members and their enthusiasm....more info to come this summer on how they hope to engage lots of great ideas and greater participation from folks in the parish!). Fr. Shikina also hopes to participate via Zoom with the **next Parish Council meeting of Immaculate Conception** in a couple of weeks, as it, too, begins to discuss ways to invite more participation in the parish and focus on the New Evangelization. Fr. Shikina, thankfully, is also much more tech-savvy than I am (I usually swear at computers), and so he has a lot of great ideas on how to engage people at both parishes – including inactive Catholics – using social media and technological means. Please keep Fr. Shikina in your prayers as he prepares to become your next Pastor!

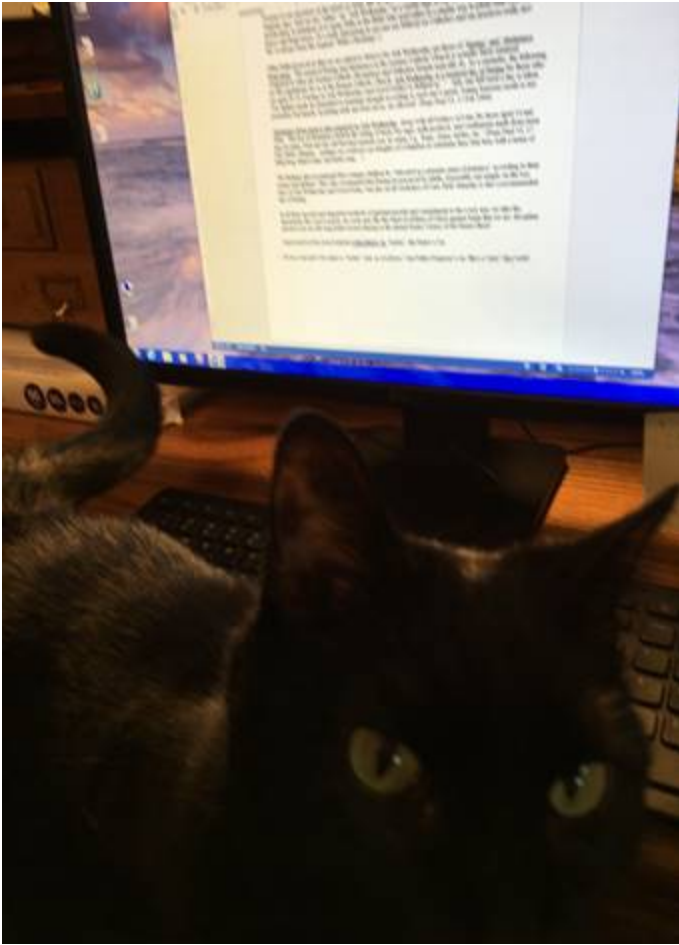
Today's "UPDATE – CC" includes material to help us prepare for this weekend's Masses, whether you are able to come "on-site" or must remain at home. **If you come "on-site", please plan to wear a face covering per the directives of Bishop Brennan.** (We have a few extra masks in the narthex if you forget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

Jackie, the Pastor's Cat, also makes a return after a long hiatus, with more thoughts for our parish children. May we pray for our parish children for their health and safety during the summer vacation!

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

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

"THOUGHTS FOR OUR CHILDREN" BY "JACKIE", THE PASTOR'S CAT



Hi Boys and Girls! My name is “Jackie”, and, as you know, I am Father Ferguson’s cat! I am really sorry that I have been so long since sharing any words with you! You see, we cats sleep a lot. And I just woke up from a really, really long nap. That’s because, recently, I had a birthday, and I turned 12 years old! That’s right! Father Ferguson became my owner when I was only 7 weeks old back in the year 2008! I was a surprise gift that some nice teenagers (the big kids) from his first parish gave to him when he arrived at his second parish. Well, the trouble with having a birthday with a bad bug called “Coronavirus” going around, is that you can’t have many friends come over to your house to celebrate! So, on my birthday, I was kind of mad and frustrated because of Coronavirus. So I ate not only my own piece of tuna-flavored birthday cake, but I also ate all the other pieces of the tuna cake that my cat friends would have eaten if they had been able to come! Well, all that cake made me really sleepy, and you know how we cats like to sleep, so I fell right asleep and just woke up today! I kind of feel bad that I ate all that cake, and for being so mad at Coronavirus. But after I woke up today and stretched

and licked myself for a half hour, I stopped and felt Jesus telling me to not be so mad, but to think about all the good blessings we still receive even when life gets tough. And I have to admit that, as a cat, I’ve had a lot of blessings these past 12 years.....including helping you all out in your relationship with God! What are some of the things you get frustrated about in your life? What are the blessings that God has been giving to you this summer, even despite Coronavirus? Why not take a few minutes today and give thanks to Jesus for all those blessings? Take care, and have a “purr”-fect week!

WANT SOME EXERCISE? HELP NEEDED LOADING/UNLOADING U-HAULS

You may wish to stay off the highways on **Tuesday, July 14**. That’s the day when upwards of 20 priests of our Diocese will be driving U-Hauls to their new assignments! It could get a bit dangerous out there!

But the U-Hauls need to get packed up and also unloaded, and so hopefully a few of you can brave the roads and come to the Ada Rectory that day. I invite anyone who would like to assist me in loading up my U-Haul that morning (and/or to assist Fr. Shikina with unloading his items later that day) **at the Ada Rectory**, please let Deb Driscoll know at oll@wcoil.com. The exact times are still TBD, but I hope to have my U-Haul ready no later than 10:00. My things will already be boxed up, so it should be a fairly quick go at getting them out the door and into the vehicle. Thanks for your help!

BOTH PARISHES – GRANTS AWARDED

I am happy to share that our parishes were **just awarded two grants** from the Catholic Foundation!

The Catholic Foundation did an “early” grant application cycle this year due to the COVID impacts on parishes, and so during May parishes were invited to submit applications. To be clear, these grants are NOT from our own parish endowments housed at the Foundations (we get a limited annual “distribution” from those, which is entirely separate from this general, diocesan-wide grant program which the Foundation also offers).

For this grant cycle, I submitted the following grant applications:

For Ada:

- For the exterior church repairs recently identified (gutters, soffits, steeple shingles, etc) - DENIED
- For the technological needs of the parish (e.g., some smart TV’s for at least the older PSR grades on which FORMED and other online resources could be accessed; funds for further website and social media development and other forms of online parish engagement and outreach)....this application was actually Fr. Shikina’s idea - APPROVED

For Kenton:

- For the new Voicemail System installation - DENIED
- For the first phase of church exterior repairs recently identified (this phase = spot tuckpointing to repair the faulty tuckpointing work of the 2013 renovation) - APPROVED

Of the four applications, **we were approved for two of them**, as indicated above, specifically:

- **\$3,500 for Ada’s technological enhancements**
- **\$15,000 for Kenton’s church spot tuckpointing**

Fr. Shikina will of course work with the relevant staff to implement these projects after he arrives.

We thank the Catholic Foundation for their generosity with supporting our local parishes! For more information about the Foundation or how to contribute to a parish endowment, or how to create an endowment or other planned-giving options as you consider your estate planning, please contact the Pastor, or contact Dan Kurth at the Foundation at 614-443-8893, or visit www.catholic-foundation.org

BOTH PARISHES: OFFERTORY & BAA REMINDERS

Weekly Offertory: Thanks to all who have been very generous with “catching up” on offertory from our “shutdown” period, and for all your contributions. As you know, we still have many bills to pay as we continue to operations of our parishes and serve the pastoral needs of the people. Obviously, some have been financially-impacted by the Coronavirus fallout, but if you are able to help with our Offertory in any way, we appreciate your sacrifices. For each parish, the Offertory comprises roughly 90% of regular parish income, and we have already been running slight deficits in recent years.

I will be meeting with each Finance Council (as I normally do every quarter, per Diocesan regs) in my final week on site, in order to continue discussing our parish finances and making sure we are good stewards of our resources.

BAA Kickoff Delayed: Because of COVID, the Diocese decided some time ago to postpone the “kickoff” of the 2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal (which supports the offices and programs of the Diocese headquarters, many of which directly benefit parishes like ours). For some unknown reason, the “postponed” date of the new BAA Kickoff was scheduled by the Diocese for July 11/12, which is the final weekend of duty for pastors in nearly 20% of the parishes in the Diocese, before pastors move 2 days later. (!!)

Needless to say, that would be a bit awkward. So....I have decided locally here to postpone our BAA Kickoff until later in July or early August until after Fr. Shikina arrives and gets settled. So, if you see mentions of the BAA Kickoff in the Catholic Times or from some other parishes, and wondered why you’re not hearing about it yet here in Hardin County, that’s the reason. Hold tight, and Fr. Shikina will kick off the BAA and will describe all the great ways it does really help us here locally here in Hardin County.

KENTON – FESTIVAL UPDATE #2

This past Monday, the **Festival Committee**, led by Dr. Kate Johnson, met for a second time to discuss how to go about our annual one-day August parish festival this year, especially given the limitations and circumstances of “re-opening” from COVID.

We reviewed the recently-issued directives from the Bishop on festivals, and the Committee felt that given the smaller kind of festival we normally have anyway (compared to many much bigger parishes) and the plans we already had in place to “scale things back” and to implement rigorous safety precautions in light of COVID, that we would be able to proceed. This, of course, is presuming that the State will increase the limitations on size of gatherings in July which it is widely expected to do so. (We will make changes to the Festival if needed if such ends up not being the case).

The Festival is currently slated for Sunday 9 August during the limited hours of Noon to 7:00 pm.

Please see Update “AA” for the previous, more detailed, plans for our Festival plans and COVID precautions.

In today’s Update, I wanted to pass along 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

I was also tempted to request someone to donate a **dunk-tank** so that you could take turns dunking your new pastor, Fr. Shikina; but Jackie the Cat told me that that would not be a very nice thing for me to arrange. Darn.....

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!

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 am (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 Immaculate Conception this weekend (June 28)** at the **9:00 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**.

WEEKDAY MASSES

For **Weekday Masses**, please note that this week we will continue to observe our “split” cluster daily 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

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

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.