

# PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – DD (7/2/20)

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## PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON

Greetings in the Lord!

Today's "UPDATE – DD" 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 a **couple of special spiritual occasions coming up this weekend;** see below for details.

**Best wishes also for happy and blessed Independence Day! God bless our nation!**

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

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

## "FINAL THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH 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 just can't believe it! I took a nap yesterday, and I woke up, and I discovered that my house here was full of boxes and bags! Everything looks so different in here! I ran to Father Ferguson and jumped in his lap and meowed to him, "What's going on?" He explained that he and I are moving! That's right! He explained that in just a week and a half from now, he and I are going to move to another parish! He told me that he was asked by the person in charge of all our local churches – Bishop Brennan – to go to another church, named "Saint Andrew's" in a city nearby named "Columbus", to help people there to come closer to Jesus. Priests go to wherever our Bishop sends them, in order to help folks learn more about and worship Jesus as Lord. You know, kids, when Father Ferguson told me this, I had a lot of mixed emotions.

I am happy that the people of Saint Andrew's parish will learn more about Jesus and that I will get to meet some more great kids. But I am also sad – first because, well, I am a cat, and we cats don't like making changes. We like familiar things...like my favorite couch and my favorite window. And also, I am sad because I have really enjoyed writing these columns to all of you as wonderful children of our Hardin County parishes! And I will really miss doing that after I leave! So, after I jumped off of Father's lap and went to my favorite couch and looked out my favorite window, I asked Jesus to help me not to feel so sad about moving away. And soon I sensed Jesus telling me the following: Life is a journey, and a lot of times in life, things are going to change, and we will have to go to new places and embark on new adventures....just like what it was like for Jesus when He lived in this world. But Jesus consoled me in sharing two insights: first is that Jesus will always be with me no matter where I go or what I do....and the same is true for you!; and second is that I can still stay connected with all of you as great children by praying for you as you continue to grow up, even from a distance. So, boys and girls, that's what I will do....and I will make sure Father prays a lot for you, too (and if he forgets, I will scratch him up good to remind him!). But I don't think he'll forget, because Father has often told me how much he loves all of you kids and how awesome all of you are! And I have often heard all of you shouting out with him in joy, **"God is Good!....All the Time!"** Indeed God is, and don't forget it! Kids, stay strong and stay holy, and thanks for letting me, as a cat, be part of your lives! Take care, and if I may meow one final time: have a "purr"-fect week!

## **ADA – BLESSING OF EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT THIS SUNDAY**

As mentioned before, Donald Waters has been working on an Eagle Scout Project, involving creating an **educational and spiritual "Saint Walk"** on the south side of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Ada. The project has involved the acquiring of statues of several saints which can be of help in encouraging the parish youth (and grown-ups, too!) to go deeper in the path of holiness; along with informational signs for each statues, and an upgrade of the surrounding landscaping and the Marian grotto.

Well, **the project is finished**, and we are ready to offer a special Blessing for this wonderful addition to the OLL church campus.

Accordingly, immediately after this Sunday's 11:00 Mass, I will go outside to offer a **brief Blessing to the new "Saint Walk"**. Those in attendance may also come out to join in, maintaining of course, social distancing (much like the statues currently are, spaced apart as they are along the perimeter of the courtyard!).

Thanks, Donald, and Congratulations on your upcoming Eagle Scout status!

## **BOTH PARISHES – PRAY FOR OUR RCIA CANDIDATES**

**This weekend, Sunday 5 July 2020**, we have the joy of (finally) celebrating the RCIA Initiation Sacraments for 5 individuals, along with welcoming into the Catholic faith the young son of one of our candidates. Those six individuals are the following: from Our Lady of Lourdes: Brandon Vermillion, Angela Miller, and Cassie Collins and her son Richard Moed; from Immaculate Conception: Donna Patterson and her son Tyrese Patterson. We will also be witnessing the Adult Confirmation of an existing OLL parishioner: Kristi Montgomery.

**Please pray for these disciples**, that they each grow stronger in his or her relationship with Jesus as they encounter the Lord in these special initiation sacraments, and further down the road in the Holy Mass and in their daily life of discipleship. Please make them feel welcome here in our Hardin County Catholic parishes!

Thanks to all who have helped in their spiritual growth, including our RCIA teams, their families, and their sponsors!

**The Mass will be hosted at Immaculate Conception** this year. 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. However, we will be broadcasting the Mass on **livestream beginning at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening**. Click on our usual Youtube Mass link to join in: [tinyurl.com/OLLAda](https://tinyurl.com/OLLAda).

## **BOTH PARISHES – OFFERTORY & BAA REMINDERS FROM LAST UPDATE**

**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 #3**

Please see the last 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!

## **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 (July 5)** 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](https://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 for this coming week. 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 10 July 2020.**

**Please stay tuned for the daily Mass schedule for the week of July 13; there will be some changes due to the change of Pastors that week.**

## 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 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.