

PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – Q (5/1/20)

WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE: (SOME URGENT ITEMS!)

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PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON

Greetings.

My apologies for all the technical difficulties surrounding the sending out of the last Update (P) on Tuesday. For some reason, my e-mail platform (Outlook) decided to take 12 hours to finally process and send out my original e-mail to our staff! My staff normally then forward and post the Update for everyone else in the parishes. Fortunately, one staff member somehow did receive the Update right away that afternoon, and so through several “forwarding” efforts, I hope that everyone eventually did receive it in a timely manner. It seems that your pastor has a ‘force-field’ around him that often makes technology do strange things. Is there a patron saint for fighting off technology demons? Maybe one of our Confirmation students can research that.....

Today's “UPDATE – Q” includes some important reminders, particularly from our Ohio Bishops and about the resumption of Confessions.

Also, **today is a special day for our nation:** at 3:00 this afternoon, our nation will be reconsecrated to St. Mary under her title of “**Mary, Mother of the Church**”. Please see below for information from Bishop Brennan on how to view and participate in this important national event.

As I mention below, **this coming weekend has two special significances:**

- 1) It is the **Day of Prayer for Vocations:** please pray in a special way for increased vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, especially among our youth and young adults.
- 2) It is the beginning of the **Month of Mary:** please keep praying for our Mother to bless our Hardin County parishes, both of whom look to Mary as our patroness.

Finally, as a reminder, please keep making use of the **various Spiritual/Catechetical Opportunities** we've shared the last couple of weeks (see Update J).

Let's continue to ask our Risen Lord's ongoing help in the midst of our trials as we celebrate this Easter Season.

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

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

LETTERS FROM OUR BISHOPS - REMINDER

On Tuesday morning, the Ohio Bishops, and our own Bishop Brennan, issued **two important letters** regarding how the state's gradual "re-opening" will affect Masses and some other aspects of parish life in the weeks ahead. Please read those important letters, **attached to the last Update (P)**, if you haven't already.

As a reminder, based on the Ohio Bishop's decisions, **there will no public Masses the weekends of May 10, 17, and 24.** (This includes weekday Masses through Friday May 29). **Their "hope" is to begin public Masses on the weekend of May 30/31, which is Pentecost Sunday.**

CONFESSIONS RESUMED – REMINDER

REMINDER – In the last Update (P), I explained a new "**social distanced**" **format of the Sacrament of Confession** which Bishop Brennan would like parishes to offer in the coming weeks. Please see the attachment to Update P which gives all the necessary details, including which blocks of appointments will occur at which parish in the coming weeks, how to call and schedule your appointment for Confession, where to go when you arrive, how to prepare ahead of time, and what to expect when you arrive. This "modified Confessions" plan will begin this coming Sunday (May 3) with the first appointment block of time (4:00-6:00) being done at Immaculate Conception. **Please read that attachment carefully, especially the first two pages**, as you prepare to make use of the Sacrament of Confession as a valuable part of our relationship with Jesus.

RECONSECRATION OF THE NATION TO ST. MARY - TODAY

Today, May 1st, has been designated by the United States Bishops as a special day of **reconsecrating the nation to St. Mary** under her title of "Mary, Mother of the Church" in light of the special needs and suffering brought on by the pandemic. (Canada will be doing the same thing.) Archbishop Gomez, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will be doing a **reconsecration at 3:00 EDT today**. Bishop Brennan has passed along the following information on how to view and participate in this special occasion:

Bishop says: As Archbishop Gomez, the President of the USCCB noted "This will give the Church the occasion to pray for Our Lady's continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell, and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus."

This event will be aired live on the EWTN Television Network (check listings for appropriate cable channel), the EWTN Facebook page, or on St. Gabriel Radio, (AM 820, Columbus; FM 88.3 Portsmouth). If you have not done so already please widely share this information with your parishioners and others, in addition to these two web page links:

Diocesan link: <https://columbuscatholic.org/marian-devotions>

USCCB link: <http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/consecration.cfm>

MASS PREPARATIONS FOR THIS WEEKEND

This coming Sunday will be the **Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season**. It is informally known as "Good Shepherd Sunday" based on the Gospel reading for this week of the Easter Season each year. Also, this Sunday is the "Day of Prayer for Vocations". It is also the first Sunday of May, the "Month of Mary", so, if all goes well, we hope to possibly crown a statue of Mary during this Sunday's Mass.

To view the livestream of this Mass, please use the same YouTube link you have already been using for the Sunday Masses: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVxcsTyz-ukNpEDHVkQWKVw>

Attached to today's Update is a **Worship Aid** for this Mass. (Many thanks to Deb Driscoll for creating these worship aids each week!)

[Bulletin from Dee Printing](#) for this coming week. It includes the daily Mass readings as well.

KENTON ITEM: HOSTAS AVAILABLE

Jane Scharf, one of our volunteers, and who is much more knowledgeable about plants than I am, says that there is an overabundance of hostas in various parts of the grounds of Immaculate Conception. They need to be thinned out, but she doesn't want to discard perfectly good hostas. So, she is willing to make them available to parishioners who may like to replant them at home. This is the logistical information she has passed along:

"Happy spring! While we are planning our gardens and flowerbeds, it seems an appropriate time to consider the beds around the church grounds. We have many hosta plants that need thinned out and will need to find new homes. Chloe (my granddaughter) and I would like to get started on this project so if you, or someone you know, would be interested in any hostas, please let me know through email or text at jescharf77@icloud.com or (740) 244-1292. Thank you and may The Good Lord continue to bless us with new life and growth!"

We were discussing possibly making a "sale" of these hostas, but we are mainly interested in making sure they don't go to waste. If you would like to make a donation to the parish for the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and grounds as you take some hostas (up to you), feel free to mail a contribution to our office: 222 E. North St. Thanks for everyone's support!