

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

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PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON

Greetings in the Lord!

We continue to celebrate a special series of Solemnities which help us to take joy in our faith: this weekend is the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**. These occasions, which take place each year after Easter Season has concluded, are a great spiritual help as we continue to endure many challenges personally and as a nation with the effects of Coronavirus and much turmoil from civil unrest. The three Persons of the Trinity are a sign that God wants to be very interactive with our lives and our world to give us hope in the midst of crosses. That “nearness” of God is what our sacramental faith in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is all about.

Today's “UPDATE – Y” 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.**

Also, please note **below an important announcement regarding our next Pastor for our Hardin County parishes.**

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

- Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BISHOP BRENNAN – NEW PASTOR

Yesterday (Friday) I was told by the Diocese that Bishop Brennan would be announcing several priest assignments in his regular update to priests. Bishop Brennan has just done so (last evening), and among those assignments are those concerning our parishes here in Hardin County.

The next pastor of our Hardin County parishes will be **Fr. Edward Shikina** (pronounced “Shuh-KEE-nuh”). Fr. Shikina was ordained in 2018 (after some work experience in the private sector) and is currently the Parochial Vicar at St. Brendan parish in Hilliard (on the west side of Columbus).

I will be moving to St. Andrew parish in Upper Arlington (on the north side of Columbus) to assist Msgr. Moloney as Parochial Vicar. Simultaneously, Bishop has given me permission to pursue certification studies with the ‘Theology of the Body Institute’ located in Philadelphia, with the eventual aim of teaching in this field in some form.

The official “move date” will be the typical “second Tuesday of July” formula used by the Diocese every year, which this year is **Tuesday 14 July**.

Fr. Shikina is a very hardworking and diligent priest with lots of life experiences, so I am sure he will be a dutiful shepherd of our parishes as we come out of COVID and look ahead to the future. I will do all I can to ensure a smooth transition for our parishes in the days and weeks ahead. **Please keep Fr. Shikina in your prayers!**

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 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 to 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 7)** 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** and a **bulletin for Ada**.

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

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 7 JUNE 4:00-6:00 @ ADA ~ WED 10 JUNE 4:00-6:00 @ KENTON
SUN 14 JUNE 4:00-6:00 @ KENTON ~ WED 17 JUNE 4:00-6:00 @ ADA
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

ADA - PRAY FOR OUR FIRST COMMUNICANT

This morning, Saturday 6 June 2020, we have the joy of celebrating with **Blake Tobe** his first reception of the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**. Please pray for Blake, that he grows stronger in his relationship with Jesus as he continues to encounter the Lord in the Holy Mass and in his daily life of discipleship as he continues to grow up.

(Immaculate Conception’s First Communion Mass will be in two weeks – Saturday 20 June 2020.)

KENTON – SvdeP COLLECTION

Reminder for Immaculate Conception – the St. Vincent de Paul collection which would have occurred last weekend was postponed to **this coming weekend**. Thank you for your support of our efforts to serve the local poor!