

PASTOR'S UPDATE TO PARISHIONERS – B

WHAT'S IN THIS UPDATE:

- PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECH-BASED MASSES AND DEVOTIONS – UPDATES
- NEW MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BRENNAN

PASTORAL MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS FROM FR. FERGUSON

Just a quick update today, to let you know of a couple of devotional opportunities that came to my attention late yesterday, one of which is time-sensitive and will occur this afternoon (Thursday) at 4:00 pm. Please see the section below for more information.

Also please read carefully yesterday's "Pastor's Update to Parishioners – A" if you haven't already, for lots of important information on parish logistics. That Update is posted on the webpage of each parish, as well as the Kenton parish Facebook page.

I will keep you posted on developments through these regular Updates, which serve as the official Parish/Pastor's means of communication. I presume I will send out an Update tomorrow (Friday) to give more information about the weekend, including whether we can figure out how to livestream a Mass from Ada.

I neglected to mention in yesterday's Update, that I continue to offer Holy Mass each day in my private Rectory chapel, with the intention of all our parishioners. You are all in my prayers as we weather these challenging times together!

Thanks!

-Fr. Bill Ferguson, Pastor

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECH-BASED MASSES AND DEVOTIONS

NEW DEVOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1) POPE FRANCIS CALLS FOR A WORLD-WIDE ROSARY PRAYER FOR **LATER TODAY (THURSDAY) AT 4:00 PM** EASTERN TIME (9:00 PM ROME TIME)

Locally, Steve Johnson of OLL, who has been spearheading our cluster's 3:00 Daily Devotions, suggested the following: "Our plan for the online prayer group will be to continue with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00. At the start of the Chaplet, I'll make an announcement that for anyone interested, we can reconvene at 4:00 for pray the Rosary together with the Pope." Apparently this 4:00 Rosary is for today only.

For information on how to join the online daily 3:00 prayer group, e-mail Steve (sjohnsonpv@gmail.com). Open to entire cluster.

- 2) FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS RESOURCE

The 3:00 Daily Online Devotional group led by Steve Johnson is planning to do Stations of the Cross tomorrow (Friday). Attached is a pdf resource that

will go along with those Stations, which show the Stations from the Ada church.

- 3) 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 or call her at 740-480-1288.
- 4) A SUGGESTION FROM FR. STASH DAILEY, PASTOR OF HOLY FAMILY CHURCH IN COLUMBUS (and past Administrator of ICC):

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, He who lives!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

As we enter into the coming days and weeks our hearts ache and yearn for the Eucharistic Lord. In times past the faithful have endured such moments by creative ways of giving the world a ray of hope, a light in the darkness. Surely the first step for all of us is to turn towards the Heart of Jesus. May His Heart be our refuge and source of strength.

I offer you a simple suggestion and extend an invitation to participate in a gesture of hope. Please consider placing a light in your window at night. You know the kind, the ones we see at Christmas time! That tradition started in the homes of the faithful who were deprived of the Holy Mass because of persecution. They would place a light in the window and would wait for a priest to visit. The traveling priests would know the homes of the faithful by the candle, the light, in the window.

We live in a moment and time of precaution. The Holy Mass is still offered, the Light of the world is still present among us. Our hunger for the Lord, our confidence in His Mercy and our trust in His love for us may be offered to the world by a simple light in our windows. This darkness will not over take us for we believe in the One who Lives!

I offer my Holy Mass in solidarity with each and every one of you! You are not forgotten, you are VERY MUCH LOVED!
We believe in Jesus, He who LIVES!
Let His light shine in the darkness and may your hope in Him inspire the world.

Our Lady, Health of the Sick, PRAY FOR US!
Sacred Heart of Jesus, HAVE MERCY ON US!

In Jesus through Mary,
Fr Stash Dailey

NEW MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BRENNAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I write to you again to speak about the many challenges we all face in light of the growing Coronavirus pandemic, which is so significantly impacting every facet of our daily lives. As you already know, the bishops of Ohio earlier this week decided to suspend the public celebration of Mass in every diocese of the state, and dispensed to the faithful from their obligation to attend Mass at least through Easter Sunday.

I cannot begin to tell you how difficult and painful this decision was, especially during the Lenten season. But, after consultation with our Governor and several health and medical officials, and faced with the stark realities regarding the spread of this virus, it became apparent that this dramatic step was critical to making sure we are doing all we can to help curtail the spread of this virus and keep our communities healthy. This extreme measure is a stark reminder of the necessity for all of us to heed the warnings of health and government officials to stay at home.

As Masses have been halted until after Easter, all other activities and events in our parishes must also be canceled or postponed to restrict contact and exposure. Many have asked about keeping our churches open for prayer, Adoration, and Reconciliation. The real answer is that you should remain home. Please understand that we as priests want to be faithful to our responsibility for the care of souls but in doing so, not to place people in danger. For the moment that means finding other ways to keep our parishioners connected and spiritually fed through the Word of God, and responding to pastoral emergencies. I implore your understanding and our shared cooperation. Trust me, I look forward to being together to celebrate the sacred mysteries of our faith. It is only under the strictest guidelines for hygiene and safety that Churches may be open for prayer and confession. Priests will try to be available or get the necessary assistance for urgent situations.

I want to leave you with this suggestion: if possible, in consideration of not only your health but the health of all those you might come in contact with, ***please make every effort to stay home*** and find other means to stay close to the Lord. This is especially true for those of us with the highest risk for complications from infection. Utilize Catholic media, TV, and St. Gabriel Radio to continue to experience the Mass. Take this opportunity to expand your prayer life. You can find links to much of this information on our website, columbuscatholic.org. As we move forward, we will continue adding resources to assist you.

Even in these challenging times, as we all continue our faith journey during Lent, all of us can engage in spiritual communion. A spiritual communion acknowledges that deep sense of loss at not being able to share the sacrament but an act of faith in Jesus' faithful presence among us as we long for the day when we might share anew in the Lord's most gracious gift.

Let us be united with ever fervent prayer even as we experience physical "social distancing". Let us beg God's help and mercy in this trying time. Indeed let us practice "extreme charity" making these sacrifices for the good of those around us and being aware of the each other's needs. We pray for all those who are afflicted by this virus or any illness, for all of us who have been impacted, and for those who labor to curb and defeat its effects and keep us safe. We offer all of our sufferings and anxiety to Our Lord Jesus, and united in faith, we pray to be refreshed by his boundless love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan

Bishop of Columbus