

Father Ed's update to parishioners – #3 (7/31/20)

Hello everyone,

I hope your week has gone well. Lots of different things are happening. I hope to not overwhelm you with updates, but you probably want to know what's happening!

Dispensation from obligation to attend Sunday Mass

As you know, the bishops of Ohio had given a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until September 13th. Earlier this week, Bishop Brennan wrote to the priests of the diocese with the following statement: "Given the rise in the rate of infection throughout Ohio, Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus are dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice. This is in conformity with the other Ohio dioceses." 7/28/2020 (ICC bulletin had already been printed, so it still has Sep. 13th listed)

With no obligation to attend Mass in person, please do not skip Mass altogether. The very reason why we have Mass is for our spiritual nourishment. If you are at risk or feeling uncomfortable from attending Mass in person, please participate in Mass via live-stream, if you can; it does not even have to be our Masses, but one that you can find online.

OLL parish hall entrance for Sunday Mass

As people continue to social distance in the pews, it seems better to give an option for spreading out for Sunday Mass. While it is not ideal for people to sit in the parish hall, the reality is that people may feel more comfortable spreading out or sitting in the parish hall. So the parish hall entrance doors will be unlocked for Sunday Masses (both Saturday 5:30pm and Sunday 11am). You may enter and exit through them. Someone will be there, however, to make sure you have a mask and to hand you a mask if you do not have one. Please try to bring your own though since they are expensive!

OLL trees

There are two trees in front of the church that need to be cut down. Tawa Tree service came to give us advice and an estimate. They advised that the tree that leans over the handicap ramp certainly needs to come down. The tree to the left of it would need to come down in 3-5 yrs. However, they need a crane to be brought in and it can be costly to do it twice, so we will have them do it at the same time. I know that people can be sentimental to trees, especially if they have been here for a while, so if anybody has suggestions on what can be done with the trunks once they are cut down, please let me know (some have suggested carving them up for statues). Otherwise, all of it will be hauled away.

Catholic Foundation grant for OLL

We just received the check from the Catholic Foundation for a technology grant to be used at OLL in the amount of \$3,500. Fr. Ferguson applied for this in May. Thank you to the Catholic Foundation and for all of you who contribute to the Catholic Foundation to make grants like this possible!

Speaking of technology!...

I created a new Facebook page for OLL:

<https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyofLourdesAda>

There is an existing Facebook page for ICC:

<https://www.facebook.com/Immaculate-Conception-Parish-Kenton-OH-283837209999>

The intention for having and utilizing these Facebook pages is for further engagement of both parishioners and non-parishioners alike. They will not be used as much for disseminating information as much as for giving spiritual encouragement such as the Saint of the Day, or an uplifting spiritual message. It is meant to be more fun and interactive. So, please follow or “like” the pages!

We created an Instagram account for our younger crowd:

<https://www.instagram.com/ourladyoflourdesada/>

You may have watched live-streamed Masses on the OLL Youtube page. However, the live-streams have been done at both parishes so I think it would be good to rename it so that it would be a Youtube page for both parishes. To keep it simple, I am thinking of calling it “Hardin County Catholic Churches,” but that’s not very attractive so if anybody has other ideas, please let me know! The Youtube page is: tinyurl.com/OLLAda

Parish councils for OLL and ICC

Just before he left, Fr. Ferguson put together a new parish council for OLL. OLL had not had a parish council in years, and, while it is not necessary to have one, it is good to have a consulting body from the parish. The parish council may not in reality be a true representation of the parish but at least they represent various demographics within the parish, from the young to the seasoned, from single to married with kids. I thought it would be worth publishing their names so you know who they are. We will be meeting at least every other month during the year. For OLL, they are: Mike Milks, Desiree Tosatto, Lee Dues, Michael Moloney, Steve Johnson, Jim and Ann Kroner, Adam Ferguson, Paula Boulanger, Nick Klear (deacon candidate), and Chris Spiese (Newman Club advisor).

ICC has already had a parish council in place and the members have decided to remain in place until Spring 2021. They are: Colleen Lautar, Brianne Minter, Kathy & Ernie Klingelhofer, Shirley Byal, Stacey Stacklin, Stephanie Temple, Richard Vanderwerf, and Nick Klear (deacon candidate).

Upcoming PSR programs

For both parishes, we are looking into potential programs for PSR online for this upcoming year. One option is Damascus (who runs the Catholic Youth Summer Camp). It would be interactive and would involve the whole family. Rather than just going through a book or lesson plans, or having the parents teach, it would be a multi-faceted approach to make it more engaging. We are still looking into the options and will let you know soon what we have decided.

Online offertory

We are continuing to look at online offertory solutions. Please continue to send in your contributions even if you are not attending Mass physically. The diocese does have a portal for contributing to the parish online, if you would rather do it that way.

<https://www.columbuscatholic.org/extreme-charity>

BAA

BAA envelopes were mailed out to each household this week, but the easiest and fastest way to give to the BAA is by going online at <https://columbuscatholicgiving.org/baa> .

Live-stream schedule this weekend

The live-stream of the Mass will take place this weekend, Aug 2nd from ICC at 9am.

Mary, Patroness of our parishes, pray for us!

God bless!

Fr. Ed