



4 June 2020

“I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:3-6)

How blessed we are that we have been able to make the first move “Forward with Christ, [Our] Path to Renewing Catholic Life” with the reopening of our Church building and the restarting of Public Worship. *I cannot thank the members of the Task Force, made up of members of our Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils along with others who bring particular expertise and skills needed at this time, along with the many volunteers and staff who have worked so hard to make this a reality and keep it going at this time.*

We continue to turn our attention and focus/planning efforts to cautiously, deliberately and safely opening up other elements of our Catholic life and our Parish. Certainly, among these are:

- Restarting the public celebration of Reconciliation/Confession, tentatively planned for **Saturday, June 20th, 9:00 AM.** *More information will be forthcoming next weekend regarding this.*
- The celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation with our Elect and Candidates, *pending some hoped for relaxation of some of the liturgical practices currently suspended at this time so that a fuller celebration of these can take place.*
- The celebrations of the Sacraments of Confirmation and (First) Communion that were to have taken place this past May, again, *pending some hoped for relaxation of some of the liturgical practices currently suspended at this time so that a fuller celebration of these can take place, as well as managing these responsibly should the current protocols of social distancing, masking, sanitizing continue to remain in place.* More information on this will be coming out to our families and candidates in the very near future.
- Completion of our 75th Anniversary picture taking/Parish Directory. Currently, nothing is intended to be rescheduled for picture taking until at least August, and only after protocols have been reviewed and put in place to provide safety for those participating.
- Other gatherings, among them for children and youth. Currently, the *Diocesan Guidelines call for gatherings for children/youth include:*
 - *Postponement of large gatherings (state guidelines list these at 10+ individuals) with consideration to alternative approaches that place safety first for children/teens and families*

- *Retreats, conferences, service immersion experiences, large group leadership experiences, and amusement part trips are NOT permitted to take place.*
- *Bus or group trips in or out of state are NOT permitted.*
- *Use of facilities must follow protocols established by the Diocese (hand-sanitizing, masks, social distancing, sanitization of facility following any usage)*

These same guidelines would pertain to other group gatherings as well, at the present time.

- Utilizing remote meeting tools (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) in order to facilitate meetings with Council, Commission and Committee members engaged in serving the Parish. ***For the month of June, there will be no "in-person" group gatherings/meetings at the Parish. This will be reviewed near the end of June, and consideration given to the guidelines in place at that time and recommended by the CDC, State of Ohio, ODH, Ohio Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Diocese of Cleveland, to make a determination regarding the status of "in-person" group gatherings/meetings for July. We will review this monthly as we move forward.***

AS IT PERTAINS TO SOCIAL EVENTS/GATHERINGS FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF THE CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR

After consulting with the members of the "Forward with Christ Task Force", again, comprised of members of our Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and other key individuals with particular expertise, and in consideration of the importance of safety for our members and others our members come in contact with, along with the current required protocols that are in place, I have ***suspended**** any/all social events/gatherings ***through the end of the current Calendar year.*** (* *Aware that the possibility exists that certain protocols and restrictions may be relaxed in the weeks/months ahead, this suspension will be revisited at that time and a determination made as to whether or not it will be amended, keeping in mind that the safety of our members and others our members come in contact with is always of the utmost importance*).

This **includes** but is **not limited:**

- ❖ Funeral Meals
- ❖ Coffee and Donuts (after Masses)
- ❖ The Fathers' Day Brunch
- ❖ Sponsi events
- ❖ Receptions/Socials
- ❖ Rummage Sale
- ❖ Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner
- ❖ Christmas Craft Bazaar

(As a side note, I received an email from the Chair of this year's Akron Children's Hospital Tree Festival dealing with the possibility of a "virtual" Tree Festival this year, as they are working toward the possibility of not having an "in person" Festival in 2020.)

Both the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies' Guild will be investigating other ways and methods of raising funds to support their ministries.

Our goal is to continue to move "Forward with Christ", following "A Path to Renewing Catholic Life" here, at Our Lady of Victory and beyond, but always considering the safety of our members and others our members will come in contact with.

A PLEA FOR YOUR HELP

Again, our goal is to keep the Church building open and the opportunity for public worship available (**and** a continuation of live streaming all Masses and other liturgical events on our Parish Facebook Page, uploading these to Vimeo and YouTube as well, so that those unable to return at this time may have access to these and continue to remain connected to the Church that at this time is scattered). **To do this, others are needed to help with our Julian Ministry* and our Sanitizing Teams.**

****Also needed for weekday Masses and Funerals but fewer in number than for weekends.***

Our goal is to schedule individuals at a minimum of every other week, rather than the same individuals each week for the weekend Masses.

Julian Ministry:

Their functions are not difficult nor burdensome but have proven to be a real help to all who are able to come to the Church building to worship. **We do not have enough to form multiple teams for all of the weekend Masses***. This is necessary lest these individuals get "burned out" and we lose the important and necessary ministry they provide at this time.

**** For weekday Masses, we need 3-4 Julian Ministers.***

Their functions are:

- To make certain the doors are open one-half hour before Mass begins to welcome people
- Sanitize their hands
- Distribute masks for those who need them
- Direct worshippers to how they are to enter
- Distribute any worship aids (bulletins at the end of Mass)
- Assist parishioners in being seated so that we can maintain the necessary social distancing as well as not exceed our safe seating capacity
- Assist in the flow of the Communion line(s)
- Assist parishioners on safely leaving Church at the end of Mass and
- Distributing Bulletins as members leave

We need more individuals for this ministry, in particular, for the 5:00 PM and 11:00 AM Masses, again, so that we can create multiple teams. Currently, this

requires a minimum of **8** ministers at each Mass since we have chosen, for now, to make all **3** entrances accessible.

Sanitization Teams (weekend Masses):

The Church, restrooms, all hard surfaces, etc., **must** be sanitized **after each use**, a requirement if we are to make the Church building available for public worship.

It takes a **minimum** of **8** individuals to do this (currently, while we have had a few more than **8**, as some were being trained.)

We are **extremely** short at the **5:00 PM and 11:00 AM Masses**. With **8** the effort goes quickly and smoothly and may take up to **20** minutes, depending on how much of the Church is used for a given celebration.

With the current numbers, at this time, we are unable to create multiple teams so that an individual or group of individuals is not having to do this each weekend.

It is simply a matter of spraying disinfectant (*pre-mixed/provided*) on surfaces and spreading the disinfectant (*rags/gloves provided*) and allowing it to air dry.

Training will take place for both of these Ministries, and, does not take long to be trained.

PLEASE, GIVE THIS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AS THESE MINISTRIES ARE REQUIRED FOR US TO KEEP THE CHURCH BUILDING OPEN.

If you are interested, either contact me, or Linda Herold at the Parish Center ((330) 633-3637; mmatusz@ourladyofvictory.net; lherold@ourladyofvictory.net) or Ken Rusinoff ((330) 607-7859).

Or, complete the bottom portion of this and drop it in the Collection Box in Church.

May we continue to not only "Lean on the Lord!" but lift up and support one another as we journey through these times to a new time of healing and wholeness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Mike

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

I am interested in Julian Ministry: _____ **Sanitization Teams:** _____