



***God is waiting for you
in love, in the
Eucharist.
Will you
come?****

* Ascension Press

25 May 2021

Dear Parishioner:

On May 18th, Bishop Edward C. Malesic, Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, in a Decree given that day, wrote:

“I therefore with joy and gratitude to Almighty God hereby announce that the time has come for Catholics to return to the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays** and Holy Days** of Obligation. The dispensation, no longer necessary, is hereby rescinded*** and the faithful of the Diocese of Cleveland are advised that they are morally obligated to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation beginning on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, 6 June 2021.”

**Including Saturday/Vigil or Holy Day/Vigil Mass(es)

***Announced by the Catholic Conference of Bishops on May 13, 2021.

Additionally, the Bishop wrote:

“As has always been the case, if individuals are homebound, are frail due to illness or age or, in their well-formed consciences believe that going into public places – including Sunday worship at Mass – would place their health or the health of their loved ones in serious jeopardy, they are not bound by the obligation to attend Mass.

The faithful who are unable to attend Mass are nevertheless urged to make holy the Lord’s Day. [You] are encouraged to pray, read the Scriptures, and take part in acts of charity, and if appropriate, view or listen to the celebration of the Eucharist made available by electronic technology. *However, the viewing or listening of a broadcast Sunday Mass through various media, while spiritually beneficial [and necessary for those mentioned in the above] is not a substitute for attending Mass in person and does not fulfill the obligation [for any bound by the obligation.]”*

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None of us likes being told that we are “obliged” to do something. In truth, this is not something that “God asks of us out of God’s own necessity to be worshipped, but rather a gift to [us] for [our] spiritual well-being, eternal salvation and [formation/strengthening] in our relationship with God and one another.” Saint John Vianney [asserted]: “There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.” The Eucharist is the greatest gift Jesus Christ left to His Church – the very gift of Himself. *There is no substitute for it, which is the central point of Mass, celebrated in person.*

God is waiting for you in love, in the Eucharist. Will you come? And, when you come, WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE? WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

The following* will be in place at this time and for the foreseeable future as we continue to pray, reflect and take the important steps to re-look at all areas of parish life through the lens of our Parish Mission Statement: **Loving God . . . Loving Others . . . Becoming and Making Disciples!**

*Based on Bishop Edward C. Malesic’s issued guidelines to be effective June 2, 2021; the CDC, State of Ohio, Summit County Health Department guidelines and in consultation with Our Lady of Victory Parish’s COVID-19 Task Force

At this time and for the foreseeable future:

- Our weekday Mass Schedule remains Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 AM
- Beginning Wednesday, June 2nd, the Church will remain open from the conclusion of morning Mass till 4 PM, Monday thru Thursday as well as on Saturdays, beginning with Confessions at 9:00 AM until the conclusion of the 5:00 PM Mass. **ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH IS TO BE THROUGH THE ALCOVE ENTRANCE and visitors are asked to REMAIN IN THE ALCOVE or TABERNACLE AREA while making their prayerful visit.**
- The Blessed Sacrament will continue to also be reserved in the Tabernacle in Room 101 of the Parish Center, accessible for prayer/adoration from outdoors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The weekend Mass Schedule will remain at 5:00 PM Saturday, 8:30 and 11:00 AM Sunday.
- We will continue to livestream all Masses/Prayer experiences as we have been doing
- We will continue to broadcast all weekend Masses via FM 93.7.
- We will continue to provide for the distribution/reception of Communion at the weekend Masses for those who may be praying in the Parking Lot during the time of the weekend Masses.
- We will suspend the outdoor celebration of Masses after May 30, 2021.
- We will continue to offer and livestream Exposition/Evening Prayer/Holy Hour on Monday’s and Wednesday’s from Room 101 of the Parish Center (participation either on line or in the back parking lot) as well as Adoration/Night Prayer and time with a Friend on Tuesday’s, Thursday’s and Friday’s.
- Livestreaming continues on our Parish Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofvictorychurchtallmadge/>, as well as uploading these to Vimeo (www.vimeo.com, search for Our Lady of Victory Church, Tallmadge, Ohio) and YouTube (www.youtube.com, search for Our Lady of Victory Church, Tallmadge, Ohio).

- ❖ *“Facemasks are no longer required but are strongly suggested for those who have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine or are otherwise vulnerable” (including children/youth under the age of 12 and over the age of 2, unable to be vaccinated at this time.)*
 - *“Respect is to be shown to those, who” may be unvaccinated or are vulnerable “or who, for personal reasons, choose to continue to wear facemasks and practice physical distancing.”*
 - *Facemasks will continue to be made available at the entrances of the Church for any who wish to use them.*
 - *Those who are not feeling well should remain at home.*
- ❖ *All are encouraged to maintain good hygiene practices, especially the sanitizing of your hands. Hand-sanitizing stations will be at the entrances of the Church for your convenience and use.*
- ❖ *The “Pandemic born” JULIAN MINISTRY will continue providing a welcoming environment and be able to provide assistance to worshippers who gather (and assist with seating only when necessary or asked to do so.)*
- ❖ *Physical distancing is no longer required. With some exceptions, open seating in the Church will be available.*
 - *A small number of pews will be reserved in the back of the main body of the Church for any who may wish to be seated physically distanced.*
 - *An additional front pew in the main body of the Church (south side) will remain reserved for possible physically challenged members who desire to be seated there.*
 - *Pews in the Alcove area will continue to allow for physical distancing for those who desire that.*
- ❖ *Holy Water will once again be made available in the Holy Water Fonts near the Entrances of the Church to allow for those entering to bless themselves when they enter as a reminder of their Baptism in the name of the Holy Trinity and being joined as members of the Body of Christ.*
- ❖ *Liturgical Processions at the beginning, during and at the conclusion of Mass will continue and be enhanced.*
 - *This will include the bringing forward, at Offertory time, the gifts of bread and wine to be consecrated and offered as our Eucharistic sacrifice.*
 - *While permission has been given to re-introduce the Offertory Collection, at this time and for the foreseeable future, we will continue to utilize the Collection Boxes at the Entrances of the Church, which have signs posted by them for any who may not be familiar with their existence or placement.*
 - *A continued reminder to those not using Faith Direct that this is a safe and dependable way to support your Parish’s Mission and Ministry via on-line giving (and allows for the use of credit cards as well). You may sign-up on-line at: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/OH669>, or contact the Parish Center Offices for a form to complete and mail in.*
- ❖ *The Sign of Peace is permitted but should be exchanged without physical contact between persons who are not of the same household or family.*
 - *This simple ritual act is meant to be given to those nearest you and does not necessarily imply physical touch with others. For those reluctant to extend/receive a “physical” Sign of Peace, preferring no physical contact, respect should be shown them.*
 - *As stated in the current Roman Missal: The Sign of Peace is intended to “express peace, communion, and charity”, all, Christ’s gifts to us.*
- ❖ *All Liturgical Ministries are permitted. At this time and for the foreseeable future, while all are not fully in place and, as others continue to join these various ministries, we will work to focus and form*

these Ministers for worthy service of God and the Liturgy, making certain all return in a safe environment.

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Holy Communion will continue to be distributed but only the Body of Christ. The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended at this time and for the foreseeable future. Please be aware that all Ministers of Holy Communion will continue to sanitize their hands (hand sanitizing solutions will continue to be available for their ease of use) prior to the distribution of Communion; in instances where they feel contact has been made and should do so before continuing distribution; after they have finished distributing Communion and before returning to their place in the Assembly.

- *It is highly recommended that one receive Holy Communion in the hand (to avoid contact and the need for the Minister to sanitize between communicants), but the right to receive on the tongue remains in place.*
- *When receiving Communion, please remember to:*
 - *Present one hand (resting on the palm of the other hand to form a throne for the King, and as open as possible, again, to avoid physical contact with the Minister)*
 - *Bow (to the King whom you are about to receive)*
 - *After the Minister has announced, “Body of Christ”, respond in an audible voice, “Amen”*
 - *The Host will be placed in the palm of your hand.*
 - *Step to the side to consume* the Host then return to your place in the Assembly by means of the side aisle.*
(If you are wearing a facial covering/mask, you would raise or lower it at this time to consume. If not, simply step to the side and consume the Host).

❖ *Hymnals, etc., will be returned to the pews, which means, singing by all gathering for worship will begin again.*

- *Our Gather Hymnals are in excess of 25 years old and were printed/obtained prior to the revision of the current Roman Missal (the book used for the celebration of Mass). Consequently, the Mass texts/parts have not been current since 2010, or a bit earlier. We have continued to address this challenge through the use/purchase of supplemental cards, etc.*
- *NEW Hymnals/Missalettes (that include the Sunday/Holy Day Mass Readings, current and correct Mass parts, weekday Mass elements, and over 800 hymns/psalms/songs for worship) have been ordered and should be arriving soon. We will be using Breaking Bread with Daily Mass Propers, an annual subscription which will help to ensure that any changes in the Missal are reflected in a more timely fashion as well as the music used in our worship is refreshed more frequently. Additionally, with the inclusion of the Sunday/Holy Day Mass Readings, there will no longer be a need to purchase (separately) Sunday’s Word (currently used for this purpose).*

We invite you to donate to help defray the costs of the new Hymnals/Missalettes. You may do so via cash/check (made payable to Our Lady of Victory Church), include in an envelope clearly marked “HYMNAL” and drop it in the Collection Boxes at Church, by the Parish Center offices or via mail. You may also go to Faith Direct, <https://church.faithdirect.net/org/appeals/669/43407>, to make an offering via credit card. Thank you for your consideration.

- *We are looking in to finding a Parish in need, within our own Diocese or beyond, that might benefit by the donation of our Gather Hymnals.*

❖ *Protocols that will remain in place, although, not as rigorous as have been over the past year, will continue to be a regular (minimum, weekly, or more frequently if needed) cleaning of the Church and Parish Center Offices (sanitizing as a part of that); frequent cleaning/sanitizing of Restrooms and*

frequently used surfaces such as door handles, bathroom fixtures, etc., to maintain as safe an environment as possible.

It bears repeating that ALL of the above comes under the guide of *at this time and for the foreseeable future*.

It also bears repeating that, as we continue to move forward with God's grace and help, all that we do will be guided by our Parish Mission Statement: ***Loving God . . . Loving Others . . . Becoming and Making Disciples!***

❖ *Visitation to the homebound, hospitalized and nursing homes is permitted, and we will be working to put this in place. At this time and for the foreseeable future any requests for such visits should be directed to either me (Fr. Mike), Linda Herold or Joanne Pasko. We will then take steps to accommodate and meet the request, as we continue to move toward re-forming and putting in place an active ministry for this population and these situations.*

We continue to be grateful to the many good folks . . . fellow parishioners . . . who day in and day out, from even before the time we returned to "in-person" worship, have offered and continue to offer their time and talent in so many, many ways, but especially so that each and every individual who enters the Church building is welcomed, guided in safe practices before, during and after liturgy, and then, who faithfully and diligently (for over a year) have assisted in sanitizing the Church, entryways and restrooms so that the next time anyone gathered, they were assured that they were entering a clean/sanitized environment.

While some aspects of this ministry (in particular the sanitization and directed seating) will be going away, their presence to welcome and assist will remain, for which we are grateful.

The pandemic continues, but so does Jesus Christ, who has never stopped being present . . . *really, truly and totally present* in the Eucharist, and so does His Church and His Parish, Our Lady of Victory!

Recall the words of Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York, that I shared with you last month in a mailing:

"Be grateful good folks {have, for many months, served God and others through their efforts to make the Church safely available}. [Now], for God's sake, get back to Sunday Mass! We need medicine! We need food for the soul! We need vaccination from sin, Satan and eternal death! We need herd immunity as sheep under Christ our Good Shepherd. All this we behold at Mass! How can we stay away?"

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Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael A. Matusz,
Pastor



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