



10 June 2020

Dear Parishioner:

I am pleased to announce that the restoration of the **public celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession** will begin on **Saturday, June 20th (9:00 AM)**.

As with the re-opening of the Church building and the restarting of the public celebration of daily and weekend Masses, in developing the plan for restoration of the public celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession, we have used as our guide and rule(s): *The guidelines produced by the (national) Centers for Disease Control, the State of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Diocese of Cleveland.*

The protocols are in place to minimize the risk, to the extent possible, of the spread of the COVID-19 disease, not only in our parish community, but beyond.

As we proceed, there may be revisions that will be made, but we needed the best possible starting point at this time.

Upon arrival at the Church property, it continues to be abundantly clear as to what each of us is being asked to do, **in CHARITY, with COMPASSION, UNDERSTANDING and PATIENCE**, for the safety and wellbeing of each other and our community:

LOVE GOD (Sanitize your Hands!) – LOVE OTHERS (Wear a Mask!) – MAKE DISCIPLES! (6 feet apart!).

ENTRY TO THE CHURCH IS THROUGH THE ALCOVE ENTRANCE ONLY (on Saturdays, for Reconciliation/Confession):

- The door will be propped or held open. One of our (Saint) Julian Ministers will provide **all** entering the building with a shot of **Hand Sanitizer**. Once you have entered, a Mask will be provided for any who may not be wearing a Mask or do not have one. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED** (“or other facial covering”) for all* who will be entering the Church. ****IF POSSIBLE, THIS APPLIES ALSO TO CHILDREN OVER 2 YEARS OF AGE.***
- A pamphlet to assist you in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession will be provided. ***You are to take this with you when you leave. Please, do not leave this, or any other items, in the pew/Church, as these will be discarded.***
- Additionally, you are encouraged to bring your own small bottles of Hand Sanitizer or Sanitizer Wipes should you wish to sanitize your hands at any time during/or after the celebration of the Sacrament.
- You (the Penitent) will be seated in the Alcove area while waiting to approach the Priest/Confessor and are expected to maintain social distancing while seated. The pews have all been marked appropriately, marking out 6 feet between individuals.

Families that live in the same household may be seated together; 6 feet of social distance will be observed for any other individual who may be able to be seated in that pew.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** Access to other areas of the Church (other than the area you are seated in and the area where the Priest/Confessor is located) **will not be available during this time. This includes access to any restrooms.**

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION:

- The station for Confession is located on the side of the Sanctuary, opposite the Alcove area, so that the Penitent is able to see when the Priest/Confessor is available.
- The Priest/Confessor will be seated (and masked) so that the Penitent can either take a position behind a screen or celebrate the Sacrament face to face (still observing the social distancing protocol).
- During the celebration of the Sacrament (and while in Church), **all** are to remain masked.
- Once the Prayer of Absolution, Blessing and Dismissal for the Penitent has been completed, the Penitent may return to an available (previously unoccupied) pew in the Alcove area, if they wish to remain in Church for a time of prayer, or, they may exit the Church (via the Alcove entrance).
- **The next Penitent should not begin to approach the area for Confessions/the Priest/Confessor until the previous Penitent has either taken a seat in the Alcove or left the Church building. A Julian Minister will help to direct this.**

OTHER IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL HELPS:

- **In the Diocese of Cleveland and the State of Ohio, the Easter Duty obligation has been extended for a period of one year following the conclusion of the Season of Easter, 2020 (e.g., Pentecost Sunday).** This is the obligation to receive Communion (without being in a state of serious sin) during the **Season of Easter.**
- **The Apostolic Penitentiary** issued a decree granting plenary indulgences to “the faithful suffering from COVID-19 virus, commonly known as coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.”
 - *First and foremost, a plenary indulgence is offered to all people suffering from the coronavirus who are in hospitals or quarantined at home. It is also offered, under the same conditions, to healthcare workers, family members, and caregivers. Furthermore, an indulgence is also offered to all those who, during this pandemic, pray for an end to it, pray for those who are suffering, and [pray] for those whom the Lord has called to Himself. (Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, Major Penitentiary, the head of the Apostolic Penitentiary)*
 - **The following conditions apply:**
 - The faithful, with a spirit detached from any sin, unite spiritually through the media to one of the following:
 - A celebration of Holy Mass
 - A recitation of the Holy Rosary
 - The Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion
 - Recite the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin MaryThe faithful also should have the **will** to fulfill the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father’s intentions) as soon as possible (that is, as soon as the coronavirus stay-at-home restrictions are lifted).
- The Apostolic Penitentiary also willingly grants a Plenary Indulgence to those faithful in their homes or residences who implore Almighty God for an end to the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself *by means of one of the following:*
 - Read the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour
 - Recite the Holy Rosary

- Recite the Way of the Cross
- Recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

A video preview of the manner this important Sacrament will be celebrated during this time of Pandemic will be streamed live on our Parish Facebook page –

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

and also uploaded to Vimeo and YouTube on Friday morning, June 19th.



**The return of the
Public
celebration of the
Sacrament of
Reconciliation
/Confession**

