



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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January 8, 2021

Dear Father,

May God bless you during this holy season of Christmas! I have some updates about various questions related to liturgical, personnel, financial, and school issues.

- 1) Ash Wednesday and Lent: We are now just under six weeks away from the beginning of Lent, and questions have come up about the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. The Worship Office will study this and other questions and provide guidance to you. As always, as issues or questions occur, please be in touch with Worship Office or the COVID-19 Pastor Committee.

COVID-19 Pastor Committee:

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz: jkurtz@archlou.org or (502) 777-7070.

Father Paul Beach: fatherbeach@gmail.com or (502) 468-8806

Father Anthony Chandler: Alc527@aol.com or (502) 794-9815

Father Martin Linebach: mlinebach@archlou.org or (502) 373-7575

Father Jeff Shooner: jshooner@stpatlou.org or (502) 558-8350

We also will be working on question related to Lenten fish fries. These events will need to be conducted with COVID restrictions in place so any plans for in-person dining will likely be challenging.

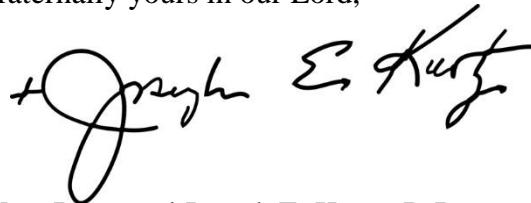
- 2) PPP: Another round of Paycheck Protection Program assistance is being rolled out but with very different requirements than last spring. We are uncertain whether many or any of our parishes, schools or agencies will qualify. In addition, additional funds for schools may become available, but a parish cannot benefit from both school assistance and the PPP funds, so a careful analysis about the benefits of one versus the other is important. We are obtaining more information about the requirements for assistance, but in the meantime, please do not take independent action. If you have an urgent need or question, be in touch with the Finance Office.
- 3) Pay and Leave Time: With the expiration of federal COVID-19 pay and leave benefits as of December 31, we will need to address personnel issues for employees who need leave time due to COVID-19 related issues. We are developing general guidelines for a variety of situations, so please be in touch with the Personnel Office with these questions.

- 4) Vaccines: The Governor has announced the priority groups for vaccine distribution in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and school personnel are in group 1B. As part of the vaccine distribution process, each Catholic school prepared a roster of eligible (based upon guidance from the Kentucky Department of Public Health) employees, contractors, and volunteers who regularly work directly with students in the school, and those rosters have been submitted to the local and state health departments. The Office of Catholic Schools will be working with health departments on this process and will continue to share information as it becomes available to them.

Other job categories, such as parish staff who do not have contact with students in schools, archdiocesan agency staff, and other personnel are generally not included in any particular group. Thus, vaccines will be addressed for those individuals, as well as for parishioners, by other criteria, e.g. status as a health care worker or first responder, age, health vulnerabilities, etc.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to study these questions and for your leadership and outreach. As always, you are in my prayers.

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph E. Kurtz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a cross at the end.

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville