

Thoughts from the Deacon

Ascension

On this the Ascension of the Lord, let us keep in mind our ultimate goal in life is to someday be with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in heaven. Life is short; we all need to focus on what is truly important: the mission of Holy Mother Church given us by Jesus Christ and that is the salvation of souls. Everything else is secondary.

Thanks be to God that we can finally have public Masses starting on Memorial Day, Monday 5/25, with daily Mass at St Mary's at 9:00am, with Fr Blubaugh. Beginning the weekend of Pentecost May 30/31, we will return to the regular weekend Mass schedule: St Mary, 4:30pm on Saturdays and St Ann, 9:00am on Sundays. ALL are welcome, but note that the Bishop has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass for the Diocese of Columbus until September 13, 2020. Those who are at high risk are not obliged to attend Mass. Those that are sick are encouraged to stay home.

Here are the recommendations:

- Face covering is recommended by the diocese but not mandatory. Please bring your own. We will have a few available at the Church. If you wear a mask, take it down before you get to the front of the line to receive communion, so as not to be fumbling with it at the last moment.
- Proper hand washing before attending Mass and bringing personal hand sanitizer is recommended.
- Holy Water fonts will be empty.
- Offertory procession will be omitted.
- The Sign of Peace will be omitted.
- Communion will be of the Host only.
- Safe distancing should be observed as much as possible. Please keep spacing in the communion line. When leaving Mass please exit quietly (mainly out of respect for Eucharist) and please do not socialize inside the Church.
- Ushers and greeters will be required to wear masks and gloves per the diocese.

Saturday Masses will continue to be broadcast via the internet. Thanks to Steve and Pat Smeltzer for all their efforts and wonderful video productions. We are blessed to have this capability especially in these difficult times. Thanks also to all those who have continued to contribute to the financial needs of the parish. This is a very generous parish, even to the point of attracting praise from the diocese. Thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, talents and treasures.

Remember May is the Month of Our Mother Mary. Keep praying the Rosary. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us. Viva Cristo Rey.