

Parish Council Notes - - November 4, 2020

The members present: Don Armbruster (Chairman), Patty Titko, Adam Lang, Jimmie Davies, Mike Griggy, Mary Wells, Ike Holzapfel, and Fr. Tom

The majored item that touched on every element of discussion was COVID 19. This little critter has put us into a war time battlefield. The Catholic Diocese of Youngstown presented all parishes six pages of thoughts under the general heading of the following: **Flexibility, Adaptability, Patience, and understanding.**

The Council discussed services during the Christmas Season. The Diocesan document says the following: “remind people that Christmas is not just a day, or even a two day unit, but an entire Octave to January 1st. ..under the current circumstances, this year the schedule can invite us to consider the weekend of Christmas (December 24- 25- 26- 27,) as one festival unit.” The Parish Council recommended the Communal Penance Service shortly before Christmas, possibly on Sunday evening or Monday evening. Christmas is Friday.

The Council encouraged multiple Masses during the four days of Christmas, Thursday through Sunday. There are limitations on space because of the Coronavirus concerns. We might ask the people to sign up for Masses with specific locations including the number they are bringing during this 4 day Christmas Season. Recognizing there will be some walk-ons, we shall have some flexibility in space opportunities.

Tentatively we suggest the following: 2 Masses on Christmas Eve, Thursday the 24th; 2 Masses on December 25th; 2 Masses on Saturday, December 26th; 2 Masses, on Sunday 27th. For those who don't feel at all comfortable with being in church for any extended time, we may use the Rite for the Communion for the Sick prior to each of the Masses. This Rite approved by the American Bishop's Conference and with the special conditions we have with COVID 19, certainly fits the General Directives of the Youngstown Diocese for flexibility and adaptability.

Families are asked to sign up for 1 of the 8 Masses. You certainly can sign up for more than one Mass. We will create more Masses if necessary. Sheets will be in back of church as Advent begins.

Parish Council also gave further recommendations on preparation for Confirmation for our young children. They reviewed the Parish Finance Committee notes and were pleased that financially the parish is doing well. They also encouraged more on-line giving since regular attendance at Mass is difficult. Also considered was the possibility of putting together a DVD or something similar with many items including singing by the children, organ recital, a holiday Mass, etcetera. This would be a gift to all our parishioners.