



# St. Joseph Catholic Church

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**Dear Parishioners,**

## **Communion to the Homebound**

If you bring communion to persons outside Mass please note. We are asking all who do so to please leave your pix on the altar with an indication of how many hosts you need. You may pick up the pic after mass. We will no longer be filling pix in the communion line. If you are interested in bringing communion to people outside Mass please see Fr Coulter.

## **A Note from Fr. Coulter**

A few things I would like to bring to the community's attention. First of all the Church, Grotto, and cemetery are all open to the public. There had been some confusion about the church being locked. We should now have that sorted out and the church should be open during the day. I ask the community while on the St. Joseph Campus to be respectful to not only the grounds, but also to guests, even those who may seem out of place. "What you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." We can be aware and prudent while also being welcoming and open. On a similar note, while the office rectory is open during office hours, please be aware that it is also my place of residence. As such, we are asking the community to use the front door whenever possible and to note that the office is closed on Friday. Please do not enter the rectory outside office hours without my knowledge.

While we strive for our parish staff to be accommodating and approachable, our employees work directly for the parish and school. It is inappropriate for parishioners or volunteers to give orders to employees or to try and glean information from them. Parish information can be received from the parish office. Any concerns can be brought up directly with myself or can be expressed to a parish council member. Along with this, I have noticed much gossip and rumors around the parish. While keeping each in touch with each other and the goings on in the parish is admirable, we must be wary about spreading disinformation and allowing a spirit of negativity to overshadow our conversations. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." I will personally try to be more thorough and clearer in communicating with all of you and I hope you will do the same with me and the rest of the parish.

## **Church Synod**

In April of this year, Pope Francis called for a synod entitled: "*For a Synod Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.*" The synod will take place in three phases, a diocesan phase, a continental phase and finally the universal phase, which will encompass the entire Church. This synod will begin for the Church the weekend of October 9th & 10th in Rome. On October 17th all diocesan bishops have been asked to hold a Mass in their respective dioceses to begin the synod. The Youngstown Diocese's Mass will be Sunday, October 17th, at 2:00 pm in St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown. All are welcome to participate at this liturgy. Each parish has been asked to complete a selection of questions for this synod. Our Parish Council will be working on these questions. Anyone who would like to review and respond to the questions of this synod are encouraged to do so. You will find the questions on the diocesan website, [doy.org](http://doy.org). These questions will be discussed in a joint session of the parish councils of St. Joseph and St. Peter of the Fields later in the month. Feel free to bring your ideas to a parish council member. The hope is that this process will help us as a Church understand how we can better live our mission to carry on the work of Christ and meet the needs of our whole world.

Fr. Zachary Coulter  
October 10, 2021