



The Catholic Parishes of Athens & Meigs Counties

75 Stewart Street, Athens, Ohio 45701

www.athenscatholic.org

RE: Parish Life and COVID-19

Here is some information regarding events around the parishes:

1. We will still have the regular Mass schedule at all parishes. The Bishops of Ohio have given all Catholics a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass from March 14 - March 29. In their statement regarding the virus, the Bishops say, "...we encourage all the faithful, in particular those who are sick, experiencing symptoms of illness, or are at risk of illness seriously to consider refraining from Mass attendance."
2. We will still have the Fish Fry in Athens and Pomeroy on Friday, March 13. Food has already been purchased and prepared for these events. Take out service is available if you do not want to stay for dinner. The Fish Fry will not continue in Pomeroy after this week.
3. Religious Education Classes will be cancelled for at least the next three weeks. Our current plan is to have classes resume on April 5. First Communion in Athens is still planned for April 19. You will be notified of any changes that may occur.
4. The Holy Water Fonts will be emptied at the instruction of the Bishop.
5. We will not pass the collection basket at Masses. Instead, a basket will be at the back of church for your to place your envelope or offering in. If you would like to continue contributing, but are unable to attend Mass, you can always contribute online or by mailing your envelope to the church office. In the back of your envelope packet, there is a white envelope with the office address on it.
6. The K of C St. Patrick's Day Dinner will still be held on Tuesday evening, March 17.

Link to Ohio Bishops' Statement:

<https://www.ohiocathconf.org/Portals/1/Bishop%20Statements/312Bishop%20Statement%20-%20parish%20level.pdf>

We lift our prayers for all affected by this virus, and for the well-being of us all. May we continue to trust in God, and take every precaution against the spread of this virus.

Blessings,