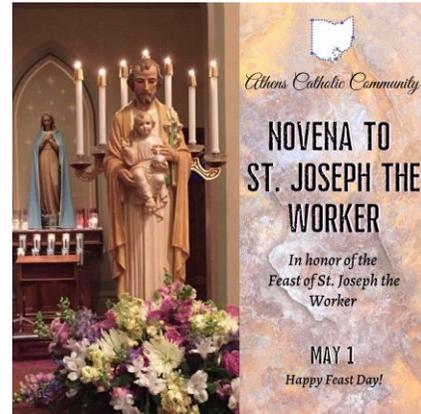May 1, 2020

RE: May 1 Update

Happy Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker!

Having finished our novena to St. Joseph, we encourage you to continue to "go to Joseph" and ask his intercession for all of our personal needs, and all those who have lost their jobs and are seeking work.

Month-long Devotion to St. Joseph

During this month, the Athens Knights of Columbus are inviting men of the parish community to join in a month-long devotion and prayer to St. Joseph through the "That Man is You" program. Click here to join with other men in devotion to St. Joseph this month!

Ohio Bishops extend suspension of public Masses

The Bishops of Ohio have extended the suspension (and dispensation) of publicly celebrated Masses until May 24. Currently, the Bishops are working out ideas for ways to re-open Masses. Bishop Monforton announced on Wednesday, April 29 that he has started a task force of clergy and lay representatives to determine how this can best be accomplished in our diocese.   You can read the statement by clicking here.

The month of May is dedicated to Mary.

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of Mary to honor Mary, Mother of God. The roots of this may lie in the ancient Roman custom of dedicating the month of May to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated *ludi florals*, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms. In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth.

It was in the baroque era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice today.

Even though we will not meet physically for most of this month, we hope that you can still honor Mary in your own special way. Here are some ideas:

- Consider putting up a Marian image in your home, in your work space, or as your phone background for the month.
- If you have a statue of Mary in your home or garden, you can have your own May crowning this weekend.
- Check out the Marian content available to us on FORMED. Use our parish code (**8RX4WV**) at www.formed.org.

Hymns at Streamed Masses

Some of you may be wondering why we are singing certain hymns and not others at the streamed Masses online. Well, because of copyright laws, many of the modern hymns found in our hymnals are not able to be used. If we used them, we would have to pay for a streaming license from the hymn book company. The license is a bit expensive for what we hope is a limited time arrangement. So, we are sticking with older hymns and the chant Mass, which are all in the public domain. This weekend we will begin sharing a worship aid to help you further participate in Mass at home. It is linked below along with the direct link to this weekend's Mass stream.

Masks

Wearing masks to cover our noses and mouths while out and about is something that has been called for by the governor. If you would like a cloth mask, but do not have one, let us know at the office and we can make arrangements for you to receive one. Several parishioners are making them, and would be glad to make one for you.

Marriages

As we honor St. Joseph today and Mary this month, please pray for those couples who are preparing for marriage, some who have had to change their plans.

<div align="center">

Destini Kidwell and Brett Martz
Raisa Janke and Christopher Keeney
Sammi Hanson and Heath Pottmeyer
Jennifer Matteson and Kristopher Lyons
Kaitlin Kulich and Evan Streator
Laurel Welsh and Daniel Davis

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Mass & Confession

This weekend we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Easter. Confessions will be heard on Saturday at 10:00 AM at Christ the King and Sacred Heart Churches. Mass will be streamed on Sunday at 10:00 AM via YouTube. Readings can be found here.