



# The Catholic Parishes of Athens & Meigs Counties

75 Stewart Street, Athens, Ohio 45701

[www.athenscatholic.org](http://www.athenscatholic.org)

May 22, 2020

## RE: May 22 Update

### This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension.

By taking to heaven His own body and soul, Jesus gives us access to the blessedness of heaven. The opening prayer for Mass on this Feast says that Jesus' ascension is "not to distance Himself from our lowly state but, that we, His members, might be confident of following where He, our head and founder, has gone before." This Feast can rightly be called a celebration of the virtue of hope. The prayer after Communion for Mass on this day says that "Christian hope draws us onward to where our nature is united with God himself." Imagine that: having our nature united with God Himself! Here on earth, this process of uniting ourselves to God begins at baptism where we become sacramentally united to the glorified body of Jesus. This union is nourished and strengthened throughout our lives in many ways: in our prayers, works, sacrifices, and our living out the sacramental life. At the end of our earthly lives, we hope to share in the glorified body of Christ in an eternal communion. In other words, we will become the greatest and best versions of ourselves in God. On this Feast, imagine the glorious results that await us at the end of our earthly lives. I invite you to let that version of yourself guide your daily thoughts, words and actions.

## Office Hours Next Week

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day. The office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

## Daily Mass Schedule

Daily Masses have resumed on the following schedule:

- 8:00 a.m. Monday-Friday: St. Paul, Athens  
*The 8:00 a.m. Friday Mass will be offered in the Extraordinary Form.*
- 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and Friday: Sacred Heart, Pomeroy  
*The 8:30 a.m. First Saturday Mass will also continue at Sacred Heart, Pomeroy*
- 8:30 a.m. Tuesday: St. Mary of the Hills
- 12:15 p.m. Friday: Christ the King, Athens

**Please note the changes in times and locations.**

*A daily Mass for Holy Cross will be published once Fr. Matthew has his summer class schedule finalized.*

If you plan to attend Daily Mass next week, you are encouraged, but not required, to wear masks and bring your own hand sanitizer. Because of the national shortage, our hand sanitizing supplies are limited. If worn, masks and gloves should be removed to receive Communion.

## Churches are still Open

The churches remain open daily for private prayer.

- St. Paul is open after Daily Mass until 7:00 p.m.
- Christ the King is open 24 hours with the exception of during the Sunday livestream. Please use the side door to the parking lot to enter.
- Sacred Heart is open from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Holy Cross is open from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Cloth Masks

We still have several cloth masks available at the parish office. If you would like a cloth mask but do not have one, let us know at the office so we can arrange for you to pick one up. Several parishioners are making them, and would be glad to make one for you! Please note that these are cloth masks, and not "N95" masks.

## Novena to the Holy Spirit

A Novena to the Holy Spirit begins today. In Preparation for the Feast of Pentecost & the Return of Weekend Public Masses, we wanted to offer an opportunity for you to join with us in prayer!

This novena is considered to be the "original" novena. The idea of a novena dates back to the Apostles, when Jesus told the disciples to pray together after His ascension for the Advocate who would be coming. Together with the Blessed Virgin Mary (Acts 1:14), they retreated to the upper room where they prayed together until the Holy Spirit descended upon them. This pattern of constant prayer established by the Apostles and Mary is the basis for novenas that we pray today! In essence, a novena is an imitation of the Lord's command to the Apostles when they prayed together in anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit!

Here is the first day of prayers for the **Novena to the Holy Spirit**:

### Novena to the Holy Spirit - Day 1: Charity

Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate.

Oh Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Charity within us.

The great charity of all the the host of Saints is only made possible by your power, Oh Divine Spirit. Increase in me, the virtue of charity that I may love as God loves with the selflessness of the Saints. Amen.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.*

To continue praying the Novena to the Holy Spirit check our **Facebook** page each day, or visit **Pray More Novenas**.

## This Weekend's Mass & Confession Times

Confessions will be heard on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at Christ the King and Sacred Heart churches. Mass for the Feast of the Ascension will be streamed on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. via our YouTube channel. Mass can be viewed by clicking [here](#), and the readings can be found [here](#).

