



The Catholic Parishes of Athens & Meigs Counties

75 Stewart Street, Athens, Ohio 45701

www.athenscatholic.org

May 8, 2020

RE: May 8 Update

Easter Sacraments

Because of the stay at home orders, most churches across the nation were unable to celebrate the Easter sacraments with those in RCIA. So, it has been a long wait for those who are seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. The Bishop has given permission for priests to administer the Easter Sacraments beginning May 29. We are currently in contact with the members of our RCIA programs to settle on a date for reception of the Sacraments.

Resuming Public Masses

The Bishops of Ohio have extended the suspension (and dispensation) of publicly celebrated Masses until May 24. The current plan is to offer Masses again on May 30 and 31.

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.

We are still awaiting his guidelines for resuming public Masses. Be aware that our Mass schedules and arrangements may need to change because of the new guidelines. For example, some dioceses are issuing guidelines that allow only a certain number of parishioners into the church. This means that some churches will increase the number of Masses offered, while other parishes are grouping parishioners together to attend Mass at certain times.

We also must be mindful that some priests may not be able to offer public Mass right away because of age or pre-existing medical conditions. So, the Bishop's task force is working on solutions to address issues locally and diocesan-wide.

The month of May is dedicated to Mary.

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.
- Check out the Marian content available to us on FORMED. Use our parish code (8RX4WV) at www.formed.org.

Cloth 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 arrange for you to receive one. Several parishioners are making them, and would be glad to make one for you. Currently, we have around 20 on hand at the parish office. Please note that these are cloth masks, and not "N95" masks.

Mass & Confession

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 [here](#). Readings can be found [here](#).