

**WELCOME HOME
TO
OUR LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL**



**PENTECOST 2020
THE (RE)BIRTH OF THE CHURCH**

**Guidelines for
The Resumption of Public Worship
in the Time of Public Health Concerns
and
Sacramental and Parish Updates**

**To Our
Mount Carmel Family**
from Father Lavelle



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.

This weekend, as we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, we find ourselves once again physically separated from one another. Ironically, the Gospel for the Ascension commands the disciples to go to the World. Even more ironic, when we celebrate our first weekend of public Masses on Pentecost Sunday (May 30th & 31st), the Gospel takes us back to that place where the disciples hid themselves away, locked up out of fear and anxiety. The actions of the disciples and the commands of Jesus to them provide us with a challenge, but also with a caution. Indeed, we find it increasingly difficult to stay locked up, riddled with fear and anxiety. However, in our zeal to go back into the world, we must rely on sound judgement and expert advice. Jesus' command to the apostles was not a plan to simply put them in harm's way, but rather, to have them bring the love and life of Christ to others. As our governor continues to set forth phases for our re-emergence into society, and as our bishop and the bishops of Ohio have called us back to the public celebration of Mass, let us not race to simply pick up where we left off, but rather, heed the lessons of these past few months. This pandemic, with its far-reaching infection and death, is by no means over, neither is our need to be cautious and vigilant, and above all, mindful of our own health and wellbeing, and that of those around us. In our desire to return to Church and to be nourished with the Eucharist, let us remember one of the more poignant prayers after communion: "Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen." Please carefully read over the materials provided in this guide. And, as always, be assured of my prayers for each and every one of you. God Bless you all!

Participation in Mass

Effective immediately, and until further notice:

The Catholic faithful who reside in the Diocese of Youngstown and all other Catholics in the diocese continue to be dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. A person may with clear conscience not attend Mass because of any concern over health risk, for themselves, or for fear of the health of their family members. A person absolutely must not attend Mass if they are feeling at all unwell.

As the obligation to celebrate the Sunday Mass is dispensed, those wishing to participate in Mass and receive Communion may do so by attending any Mass any day of the week. Our Mass schedule will resume in full on May 25, 2020, Monday – Thursday at 8:00am, Saturday at 4:00pm, and Sunday at 8:00am and 11:00am. Adoration will follow Wednesday Mass until 9:30am.

In all circumstances, appropriate social distancing and the regulations put forth by public health authorities must be observed. Our building guideline is for a maximum of 50% capacity. Every other pew will be blocked off at Mass, and each family grouping is to keep six feet apart from another. To assist in this, each pew will be marked off in two foot sections. While families can sit together, please keep three of the marked off section between another family. We ask that the side pews be utilized by individuals, couples, and families of three-four people. While we are not mandating a “pre-registration” or “ticket” system for entrance, we will re-evaluate any capacity procedure should the situation arise.

To assist those who cannot and should not attend Mass in person, we will continue to post Sunday Masses to the website every Sunday at 12:00pm.

Thank you to everyone who has made our online Masses possible, and thank you to the many more who have joined us in the celebration of Mass via social media.

General Building Guidelines

Three main principles were considered in the development of these guidelines. 1. The creation of a 100% germ-free environment is impossible. 2. Like going to the grocery store or pharmacy, there is an inherent risk to be in any group setting. 3. Every effort must be made to maintain the integrity and solemnity of the liturgy.

Please make sure to wash your hands prior to your leaving home to arrive at Church. Please use your personal hand sanitizer as needed. Do not bring any bleach-based cleaner or wipes into the Church, as they harm the finish and wood of the pews. The Church will be cleaned after each celebration of the Mass. Please limit contact with surfaces, such as touching the back of the pew in front of you, etc.

In the strongest terms, we urge the use of face masks throughout the celebration of the liturgy, beginning with exiting your car, and until your return. The Diocese has asked that the presider not wear a mask while celebrating the Mass, but will wear one during the distribution of Communion. While you may also wear gloves to Mass, they cannot be worn while receiving Communion.

All songbooks have been removed from the pews. In addition, the use of offertory baskets (while having long handles, sometimes require movement into the row of people), is also suspended. At each of the interior entrances, there will be a station including a table with disposable worship aid, a waste can, and a secured offertory collection box. Please take a worship aid when you come into the building. Upon exiting the Church, please place the worship aid in the waste can. New worship aids will be provided for each Mass. You may drop your offertory in the collection box upon entering or exiting the building. Bulletins will be available at the conclusion of the Mass.

The Cry Room, Reconciliation Chapel, and Ushers Closet are not available for use do to the limited space and ventilation. The restrooms are available, but please observe all proper hygienic procedures.

Liturgical Ministers

We are extremely appreciative of the many people in our parish who participate as Eucharistic ministers, readers, altar servers and ushers. Your willingness to offer your time and talent to our parish family is always a great gift. During this time, however, we are suspending the schedule for liturgical ministers. We will re-examine the use of additional ministers in the liturgy as we near the end of Summer and will make a schedule to reflect incremental changes to the Mass. At this time, the priest and deacon will carry out the roles customarily provided by altar servers and readers, and will be the only people distributing Communion. As already mentioned, the offertory will be done individually at the entrance stations. This is a temporary provision to eliminate close contact, and to also allow everyone the peace of mind should they have been scheduled and not be able to attend Mass or feel uneasy about close contact.

Social Space and Gatherings

At the heart of all the challenges to our returning to Church is the fact that our building, and indeed, our celebrations, are all designed on a social dimension. We look forward to gathering together – catching up with the events and activities of each other's lives. The temporary hold placed on this part of our coming together has become one of the greatest challenges. It's just not in our nature. However, to respect the health and wellbeing of each other, gatherings of any size before or after Mass are strongly discouraged. In addition, neither the priest nor the deacon will greet people after Mass. To limit close contact, the ministers of the Mass will process out from the sacristy at the beginning of the Mass and return in the same manner at the conclusion. When entering or exiting the building, please do so by respecting each other and maintaining all appropriate social distancing guidelines. We want to keep each other safe so we can one day return to the full social aspects of our celebrations.

The Lord's Prayer and the Sign of Peace

Physical contact during the Lord's Prayer (holding hands) and the Sign of Peace is suspended. This includes members of individual families. One important aspect of the liturgy is to demonstrate unity. As such, a common posture should be employed. For the Sign of Peace, simply offer a slight bow, acknowledging the other person, and exchange the prescribed greeting.

Holy Water

The Holy Water fonts, along with the Baptismal Font, will remain empty until further notice.

Receiving Communion

While this is undoubtedly the part of the Mass most people have longed for in these many weeks, it is also the part of the Mass in which we must be most vigilant and take all proper precautions. Please take special note of the instructions for receiving the Eucharist at Mass. Additional announcements and guidance will be provided at the Mass itself.

There will be two stations for the distribution of the Eucharist. One at the foot of the sanctuary (up front) and one at the break (in the middle) of the Church. The distribution of the Precious Blood is suspended for the time being. This is a temporary action.

It is emphatically requested that all communicants receive Communion on the hand, and as mentioned, gloves cannot be worn to receive Communion.

There will be only one line for the reception of Communion. Beginning with the first pew on the Tabernacle side of the Church, each family grouping will come to communion in a line down the center of the aisle, not close to the pews, while also keeping social distance from the other family that may be in your pew. After the last person in

that pew has received Communion and is returning to their seat, the first pew of people on the Blessed Mother side then begins to receive Communion in the same manner. This will then alternate from side to side, Tabernacle then Blessed Mother, until the section is completed. Given the limitations and design of our pews and aisles, the side sections will continue to come forward as has been our practice, moving though the center pew across from them, while still maintaining social distancing.

There will be a line marked on the ground where each communicant should pause to be invited into Communion. As the minister says "The Body of Christ", at that mark, please respond "Amen", and then lower your mask below your chin (again, we strongly urge the use of masks during your time in the building) and come forward to receive Communion. Please remember to place your dominant hand under your other, creating a bowl like shape, as to allow the Eucharist to drop gently into your hand. Do not attempt to take the Eucharist out of the minister's hand. After receiving the Eucharist, step to the side to place the host in your mouth and then raise up your mask, and return to your seat. Do not open your mouth directly in front of the minister.

Posture during the Eucharistic Prayer

At the parts of the Mass where we customarily kneel, we will continue to do so. However, we ask that you do so while still limiting your hand contact with the pews. During this time period only, you may use your foot to lower and raise the kneeler. Please do not lean on to the seatback in front of you with your hands. If this creates a difficulty, please feel free to be seated during the parts where we kneel – do not stand at these times, as to avoid blocking the view of others during the Mass.

Thank you for your kind attention to all these guidelines and your strong desire to unite together in celebrating the presence of our Lord , Jesus Christ, dwelling among us. The peace of Christ be with you all.

Celebration of Confirmation, First Eucharist and the Welcoming of New Catholics into the Church

One of the great difficulties of our time away from the public celebration of the Mass has been the postponement of many sacramental celebrations. We have experienced funeral services limited to ten or less people at the funeral homes, we have had couples who were joyously preparing for their marriage left with the challenge to reschedule their wedding day, or to greatly limit and alter the plans as they move forward. Additionally, we have had to put off bringing people into the Church at the Easter Vigil, as well as the always happy occasions of First Eucharist and Confirmation. Although we are returning to the public celebration of Mass on May 25th, the Diocese has asked that we not plan any of these events for the first few weeks or so. After careful consideration, we have determined that a period of sixty days would best provide for working through any alterations to the liturgical plans put in place. It may also serve to provide families a little more time to prepare for the celebration, and allow others ways of extending family gatherings as our society reopens. As such, the following dates have been scheduled for the celebration of the Sacraments. More information will be provided as the dates draw closer.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Sunday, July 26, 2020, at 3:00pm

The Reception of New Catholics into the Church

Sunday, August 2, 2020, at the 11:00am Mass

The Sacrament of First Eucharist

Sunday, August 9, 2020, at 3:00pm





87th Annual Summer Festival

When faced with questions, probably next to, “When will we be able to come back to Church?”, the close runner up is “What about the Festival?” Over the past ten weeks, we have seen the vast majority of festivals, parades, and other summer gatherings, cancel. However, we have also seen provisions and guidelines for outdoor patios and now restaurants to open. After careful and prayerful consideration, we have determined the following with regard to the 87th Annual Mount Carmel Festival.

While always subject to change, as new developments occur, the ***Festival WILL go on!***

The Festival has been moved from its usual week in July to **August 12 – 16, 2020**. While not centered on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, this year, it revolves around the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The hours of the Festival have been condensed to 11am – 7pm each day (no break in the middle, but ending after the traditional dinner hour).

The components of the Festival have been scaled back to accommodate appropriate social distancing. There will be no rides, bocce tournament, bingo or bands (activities that tend to invite close social contact).

The variety of food at the Festival will be reduced to accommodate less workers and proper spacing in lines, while still focusing on the major Festival treats so many look forward to. A large “Social Distance Dining” area will be provided, while also encouraging many people to “take out”. More information will be published soon.

The Grand Prize Raffle will be drawn at 7:00pm on Sunday, August 16, 2020. Tickets continue to be available.



Pope Francis’ Prayer to Mary during the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you. Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger. O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

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