



ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH

413 W. 19TH ST. • COVINGTON, KY 41014
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13 May 2020

My dear friends:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

I have some very exciting news! Yesterday, Bishop Foys met with the priests of our diocese to discuss when and how we will reopen our churches for the public celebration of the Sacraments... in particular Holy Mass. Shortly after the conclusion of that meeting, the Bishop promulgated directives for the opening of churches for daily Mass on Wednesday, **May 20, 2020**. The first weekend Masses will occur on **23/24 of May 2020**. We have posted the directives on our parish website so that all the faithful will be prepared for the new protocols that are being implemented to provide a holy and healthy place to worship. I hope it is rather obvious, but we will be required to social distance for the time being. All the faithful are also asked to wear a face covering during Mass. And, the reception of Holy Communion will be restricted to the hand (please note: if you do not wish to receive Holy Communion in the hand, you will have to forego the reception until all the restrictions have been lifted). Unfortunately, the church building is not quite ready for our occupancy, so we will continue to worship in the Gym. We will spread out the chairs on the floor and open up the bleachers for use. I want to strongly encourage everyone to take the directives seriously... we need to care for each other in the parish and in our community. We can't wait to see everyone!

I hope you also are excited to return to the celebration of the Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council reminds us that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian lives. Over the next week or so, I am asking that you start to reflect on your First Holy Communion. Remember the excitement you had as you prepared to receive Jesus for the very first time. I was a public-school kid in 2nd grade and was chosen from the PSR class to help bring up the gifts. I still remember walking up the aisle at St. Joseph in Crescent Springs towards Father standing at the steps leading into the sanctuary next to Susie V. I must say, I looked really sharp in my navy-blue suit, white shirt and navy-blue "clip-on" tie (which I still have by the way!). I remember being offered the Sacred Host with the words "The Body of Christ." To which I was privileged to answer "AMEN!" As I sit here now as a priest, reflecting on my First Holy Communion, I'm reminded of the catechetical teaching of St. Cyril of Jerusalem. He said:

"In approaching therefore, come not with your wrists extended, or your fingers spread; but make your left hand a throne for the right, as for that which is to receive a King. And having hallowed your palm, receive the Body of Christ, saying over it, Amen. So then after having carefully hallowed your eyes by the touch of the Holy Body, partake of it; giving heed lest you lose any portion thereof; for whatever you lose, is evidently a loss to you as it were from one of your own members. For tell me, if any one gave you grains of gold, would you not hold them with all carefulness, being on your guard against losing any of them, and suffering loss? Will you not then much more carefully keep watch, that not a crumb fall from you of what is more precious than gold and precious stones?"

That which we get to receive is the most precious in the world... for it is the Lord Jesus Himself... Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity! How can this not awe and excite us!

Speaking of the celebration of the Eucharist, we will be able to celebrate a most solemn and special Eucharistic Celebration on **Sunday, May 17, 2020**... the First Mass of Thanksgiving for Priestly Ordination offered by Father Jordan Mark Hainsey! Unfortunately, because we will still be under the more stringent social distancing norms, this Mass will be limited to 10 people. But, it will be livestreamed at **10:00am** from the Cathedral Basilica. Of course, we can't have a 1st Mass until we have the ordination... which I invite you all to watch this coming **Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 10:00am**. We will have links on the parish website to both of these celebrations. Please pray for Dcn. Jordan during these last days before his priestly ordination!!! Once we are back in the church building, we will invite Father Jordan back to St. Augustine to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving.

We continue the work in the church by preparing the hardwood floor that was under the carpet to be refinished. They have finished the masonry work on the new parish sign (on the corner of 19th Street and Euclid Ave.), we are now waiting for the granite slab to be completed and the statue to be added. To all those who have seen it, yes, I know it is going to be big... that's the point! And I don't want people to be able to hang on the statue!

In your kindness, I would ask for your prayers for a couple of intentions:

1. A parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous will be having a very serious surgery in the next few weeks. Please pray that the Lord be with the doctors and nurses, and bring our friend back to good health.
2. Prayers for the repose of the soul of parishioner Todd Staten's mother Frances Staten and his cousin Chris Parker who both died this past week; and for the consolation of their family. May they rest in peace.
3. Prayer for the repose of the soul of Pamela Trenkamp Finan who is the mother of our parishioners Dave Finan and Jennifer Lipon who died on May 3, 2020. And too, for the consolation of her family. May she rest in peace.

Finally, I am excited to announce the successes of two of our grade school students:

1. Anna Wells, an 8th grader, participated in the Diocesan Pro-Life Essay Contest, where she was asked to write on the theme "Christ Our Hope in Every Season of Life". Out of almost 300 entries, Anna placed in the top 20 and was invited to the Pro-Life Dinner! Unfortunately, that dinner was cancelled because of COVID-19. But, we just learned that Anna placed 2nd overall! She will receive a \$700 scholarship to one of our Diocesan High Schools. Congratulations Anna!
2. Ryan Glover, a 7th grader, qualified at our school science fair to attend a regional science fair at Northern Kentucky University. There he placed 1st in the Engineering, Materials and Bioengineering category and qualified for the State Science Fair. His project focused on the effect that material and weight have on the flight of paper airplanes. Way to go Ryan!

All of you continue to be in our daily prayers and are remembered at our private Masses. We are so grateful to serve you here at St. Augustine Parish. Again, we are looking forward with great anticipation to those days when we will see you on campus again. Thank you also for your prayers for us. We are doing well. And once again, thank you for keeping up with their regular church support and capital campaign pledges! **Don't forget to buy Raffle Tickets!!!** Online, through the mail, or at the office!

And, as always, thank you for your faith in our Lord Jesus and for your continued commitment to St. Augustine Parish! If you need ANYTHING – call the rectory/office – 859-431-3943.

Prayers and Blessings!

Very Reverend Daniel L. Schomaker
Pastor

Parish Mass Intentions

Monday, May 11 – **Purgatorial Society**

Tuesday, May 12 – **Mary Gronefeld**

Wednesday, May 13 – **Celine Greene**

Thursday, May 14 – **Jack Lane**

Friday, May 15 – **McKenzie Monds**

Saturday, May 16 – **Ed & Bea Staverman**

Sunday, May 17 – **Linda Lonneman & Family (9am) & St. Monica Society (11am)**

Monday, May 18 – **Joe Lestingi**

Tuesday, May 19 – **Purgatorial Society**

Wednesday, May 20 – **Mary Gronefeld**

Thursday, May 21 – **Terri Hessling**

Friday, May 22 – **People of the Parish**

Saturday, May 23 – **Richard Bird**

Sunday, May 24 – **People of the Parish (9am) & Terri Hessling (11am)**