

## **RE: Coronavirus Update from the Catholic Bishops of Ohio & Celina Cluster**

Dear Celina Cluster Parishioner,

Thursday afternoon Governor Mike DeWine issued an executive order regarding the avoidance of large mass gatherings to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in Ohio. Even though religious gatherings are expressly excluded in the order, the Catholic bishops of Ohio, out of concern for the common good and the physical as well as spiritual well-being of all of the people of Ohio, have agreed to cooperate with the governor's direction to create "social distance". To that end, they **dispense the Catholic faithful who reside in Ohio and all other Catholics currently in Ohio from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass** for the weekends of March 14-15, March 21-22 and March 28-29. Out of charity and concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ, **we encourage all the faithful, in particular those who are sick, experiencing symptoms of illness, or are at risk of illness seriously to consider refraining from Mass attendance.**

Beginning immediately, and until further notice:

- Catholics are dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation through the weekend of March 28-29.
- Masses in the Celina Cluster will be celebrated as currently scheduled with the following restrictions:
  - No holding hands during the Our Father
  - Suspension of exchange of a sign of peace (or instruct the faithful to do so without physical contact)
  - No reception of Holy Communion from the chalice
  - No reception of Holy Communion on the tongue
- Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should practice good hygiene, washing their hands thoroughly before Mass begins and, if possible, using an alcohol-based anti-bacterial solution discreetly before and after distributing Holy Communion.
- All vessels should be cleansed thoroughly after Mass with hot, soapy water.
- Priests and other liturgical ministers should limit unnecessary physical contact before, during, and after Mass and other sacramental celebrations whenever possible.

For those unable to attend weekend Mass, you are invited to join our IC Masses on Live Stream at 5 PM Saturday, 8 AM & 11 AM on Sunday. Click on <https://celina-ic.org/> and then the "Live Stream" on the top right corner of the IC webpage and follow prompts to the Mass of your choosing.

We appreciate your continued financial support even in this time of crisis. Offertory envelopes can be dropped off or sent to our respective parish offices or online contributions can be made to each of the parishes at <https://celina-ic.weshareonline.org/index.aspx>

We will continue to provide updates on our parish websites <https://celina-ic.org/> <https://ourladyofg.org/> <https://stteresa-rockford.org/> via email and social media.

IC School will be closed March 17<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>. All Celina Cluster RE/CCD classes (including Sunday School and Children's Liturgy of the Word), and Immaculate Conception Youth group activities will be cancelled March 15<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please note that Sunday Night Bingo at the K of C will be cancelled through at least March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Let us join our bishops "praying for all who are suffering from illness or disease of any kind, and for an easing of the tension caused by this situation. May Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick and Mother of Mercy, intercede for us, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect us all." *Fr. Ken & Fr. Tim*