



SACRED HEART CHURCH  
805 MAIN STREET  
COSHOCOTON, OH 43812  
(740) 622-8817  
[www.sacredheartcoshocoton.org](http://www.sacredheartcoshocoton.org)

May 19, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just over two months ago, nearly all of the dioceses in the country closed the doors of their churches and suspended publicly celebrated Mass/liturgies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic and the country's reaction has disrupted the lives of many people in the world, and we continue to pray for those infected and affected by this disease. This has been particularly painful for the Church as well. Because the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, not being able to celebrate the Eucharist with the faithful present has left a large emptiness in the Church.

As I'm sure you have heard, the Bishops of the State of Ohio have authorized the opening of parish churches for public worship. Public daily Masses at Sacred Heart will begin May 25. Our first Sunday Mass will be to celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost on May 30-31. We truly look forward to celebrate the Eucharist with you once again.

Safe distancing, hand hygiene, and regular cleaning of likely-touched surfaces are to be maintained when you come to Mass. Those who are "high risk" are especially cautioned to avoid public gatherings, including Mass until it is safe for them to attend. Though we wish that all could gather with us for the Eucharist, we cannot guarantee complete safety at this time. Those who are "high risk" are especially those highly susceptible to COVID or those who manifest symptoms of COVID. Those "susceptible to COVID," include those over the age of 70 or those who have serious health conditions. Symptoms include a cough of any kind or a fever. Bishop Brennan dispenses the Catholic faithful who reside in the Diocese of Columbus and all other Catholics currently in its territories from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass until September 13, 2020.

In order to maintain a high level of safety for all concerned, we have compiled a list of guidelines for all those returning to celebrate Mass publicly. These are based on the diocesan guidelines and must be implemented by the various parishes in the diocese. We ask for your ongoing patience and flexibility. It is likely that we may not be able to accommodate safely everyone desiring to come to Mass. We ask for you to consider other options for attending Mass, such as by livestream, in overflow chapels, at other Mass times, or at a public daily Mass.

Enclosed with this mailing is a list of **GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP AND MASS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH**, a Letter from Bishop Brennan to the faithful in the diocese of Columbus, and a copy of the Guidelines for the Columbus Diocese.

Know that I am praying for all of our parishioners, and I ask that you keep me and the parish and school staff in your prayers as well.

Please join in praying for all who are suffering from illness or disease of any kind, for all health care workers, and for an easing of the anxiety and tension caused by this situation. Relying on the Motherly care of Our Lady, we unite our sufferings to those of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our healing and our hope.

In the Peace of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Victor R. Wesolowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and 'W'.

Fr. Victor  
Pastor