

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Kalida, OH: Divine Mercy Sunday, May 17, 2020

Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S. In Residence: Fr. Elmer Wurth, M.M.

Thoughts from Fr. Mark

Hi, everyone.

I hope you are all well and doing well. It has been a long time since I've seen some of you. If I don't run into you at the grocery store, I probably haven't seen you lately. Every now and then I run into a family whose children have grown so much in a two month stint. They have changed so much in such a short amount of time. I'm starting to believe that when we do return to church that we will all have to wear name tags so that we recognize each other. I know that I haven't had a haircut in all this time, so I'm a little shaggy. I had cut my own hair a few times so that it doesn't hang over my ears. (I hate when my hair touches my ears. That sure is different from my time in the 70's when I had long hair).

It is nice to start to talk about coming back to church as a parish family. The bishop has asked us to open on the weekend of May 30, 31. Later today, I am hoping to have some idea what that might look like when considering social distancing in our churches. Like everyone else, there seems to be more questions than answers. The diocese is supposed to have some guidelines for opening the doors to the public. I can't wait. All of you give me a lot to pray about, but also give me companionship on faith/life's journey.

There are still many examples of faith all around. There are still people who drop by every day to pray. I've spoken to couples who are going ahead with their wedding because they know it is God calling them to this vocation and nothing will get in the way of God's call. Recent funerals were times of faith for me, as family shared how important faith was to their loved ones and family. As difficult as this time of coronavirus has been, it has also been a time of faith.

This past week on Tuesday night, Megan Ashbacher and Aleasha Kahle became members of the Catholic faith. They spent time this past year through the RCIA to look at the Catholic faith and to see if following Christ through the Catholic Church was how they were called. We had great classes with lots of questions and prayers. They completed the first part of their journeys with the celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Now comes the important part of living faith every day. I smiled along with them as they professed their faith in Jesus and received Him in the sacrament of the Eucharist. I only wish more of you could have been there in person. Thanks for all who watched through the media.

Please pray for our Church and our parishes. I have seen so much faith over these past weeks. Now is the time to see how we can put it all together, especially in our worship. We will be letting people know the next steps to opening up our worship to the public. There will be a time of "soft opening" which means some daily Masses will be celebrated publicly before we open for Sunday worship. Social distancing will still be part of our vocabulary and practice. Some people will feel more comfortable wearing masks and some may feel more comfortable by not attending. We may not be able to do things in the same way but we will still have the same faith to guide us and comfort us. As soon as we know the guidelines, we will let you know.

May God bless you and your families. Stay healthy, stay holy.
Fr. Mark

Mass Intentions/Schedule for TV and Facebook MONDAY, MAY 18

NOON End to COVID-19

TUESDAY, MAY 19

8:00 AM Veronica Hicks

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

8:00 AM Roger Buss

THURSDAY, MAY 21

7:30 PM Mildred Rampe, Dorothy Miller

FRIDAY, MAY 22

8:00 AM Ed Schroeder

SATURDAY, MAY 23 *Live on Channel 70 & Facebook*

2:00 PM NM Fuerst & Kalka

4:30 PM L/D William Ellerbrock Family
Louis Verhoff, Jim Warnecke
Triena Kahle, Don Holtkamp & Family
Gary Stechschulte, Martha Wallace
Greg Erhart

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:00 AM Replay of Mass on Channel 70

11:00 AM Replay of Mass on Channel 70

*Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays at Continental
St. John's on Facebook.com/kalidastmichaels*



Our Condolences

The Funeral Mass for
Veronica Hicks
was held on
Wednesday, May 13.
Please include
Veronica and
her family
in your prayers.



Welcome to the Catholic Church!

This past Tuesday,
Aleasha Kahle
(left) and



Megan Ashbacher (right)

became the newest members of the Catholic Church.

Welcome, Aleasha & Megan!

Novena to the Holy Spirit

Bishop Thomas encourages you to join in praying the Novena to the Holy Spirit, beginning Friday, May 22 through Saturday, May 30. This is in thanksgiving for the gradual restoration of public liturgies on the great Solemnity of Pentecost. A link to the novena can be found on the parish website: stmichaelskalida.org.

Blood Drive

There will be a Blood Drive at the Kalida K of C Hall on May 19, from Noon—6:00 p.m.



Upcoming Wedding

**Julia Fuerst
&
Gregg Kalka**

will be
married on
May 23, 2020.
Please
include them
in your prayers.



“Soft Opening” of Public Mass

On Monday, May 25, at Noon, we begin the “soft opening” of public Masses. For the first time since the beginning of the global pandemic, the public is invited to attend Mass. For those attending, here are the guidelines:

1. Social distancing of at least six feet each way with anyone other than your immediate family. There will be markers on the pews in which you are allowed to sit.
2. The wearing of a mask is highly encouraged for the protection of, and respect for, everyone in attendance.
3. There will be no holy water, no offertory, no sign of peace and you are strongly encouraged to receive Communion in the hands.
4. Church can be at no more than 50% capacity. On the weekend of May 30/31, there will be an overflow seating area in the church basement, if needed. There will be a live feed of Mass in the basement and Holy Communion will be brought down to you.

There will be more information forthcoming. Watch St. Michael's Facebook page and Channel 70 for updates from Fr. Mark. It will be lovely to gather together again, no matter the parameters! See you soon!

Volunteers Are Needed

We will need six Eucharistic Ministers, one Lector and six “traffic control people” at each of the weekend Masses. Other than when lecturing, these ministers will be required to wear a mask. If you would like to volunteer for any of these ministries on May 30 or 31, please contact Leslie at stmich@bright.net, along with the Mass time at which you would like to minister (4:30 on Saturday or 8:00 and 11:00 on Sunday). Fr. Mark will give you instructions. Thanks!

Obligation to Attend Mass is Still Dispensed

Even though the public will be invited to attend weekend Mass beginning May 30, there is still a dispensation from the obligation to attend because of the pandemic. If you do not feel comfortable attending, please continue to join us from your home. Also, if you are showing signs of illness, please refrain from attending. The limited gathering at Masses will go on until at least July 1.

Baccalaureate Mass

The Baccalaureate Mass is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, at 1:00 p.m. This is just for our 2020 graduates and their parents only. More info to follow.

First Communion

First Communion will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. for the current second graders and their parents only. More information will be coming. This is the perfect day to celebrate this most holy sacrament, as it is the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ!