



St. Wendelin Catholic Church

323 North Wood Street, Fostoria, Ohio 44830

419.435.6692 • www.stwendelin.org

May 28, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The last two months have certainly been a trial for all of us. As we began 2020, none of us could have imagined all that the parish and our world would be going through at this time. Hopefully through these trials we have been able to deepen our faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, viewing Mass and other devotions online, family time and more. As Scripture says:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3-7

On Monday, May 19, 2020, Fr. Doug and Anthony Gallina, through livestream, presented our reopening plan for the parish. That video can be found here, if you would like to watch it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFmc3b0JJz0>

These guidelines have been put in place through documents from government officials, our diocese, other (arch)dioceses, and also pastoral prudence pertaining to our parish. The first public Masses have been celebrated with great joy here in the past few days and overall they have gone very well. Those who have returned to celebrate have been very gracious in following our guidelines set forth. As we prepare to open for the first weekend liturgy where we will celebrate the great Solemnity of Pentecost, we wanted to reiterate the guidelines that have been put in place so that all may gather safely to worship our Lord.

It is important to note that all of these guidelines are put in place with the following principles in mind: health, safety, and love of neighbor. Everything is meant to protect each person who is a child of God made in his image and likeness. Some of these items have become hot-button issues and politically-charged in our society. It should not be so. For things we may not agree with, let us put aside our differences in opinion and be “one Body and one Spirit in Christ” (*Eucharistic Prayer III*) for the good of all.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- First and foremost, know that Bishop Thomas has dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays until further notice.
 - If you do not attend on Sunday, you are highly encouraged to pray along with Mass on TV, radio, or social media as well as keep the Lord’s Day holy in other ways.
 - We will be livestreaming the 4:30 PM Saturday and 8:00 AM Sunday Masses on Facebook Live which will then be available on YouTube later.
- If you are in the high-risk category, have pre-existing conditions that put you at risk, and/or you do not feel comfortable coming to Mass, please stay home.
- We recommend that you take your temperature prior to leaving home. If you have a fever, please stay home. If you feel ill in any way, please stay home.

*He calls
His own...
and leads
them forth*

Wendelin
Savior

MASS SCHEDULE, CONFESSION, AND CHURCH HOURS

- Weekend Mass will resume May 30/31.
 - Our normal Sunday schedule will be observed
 - 4:30 Saturday
 - 8:00 & 11:00 AM Sunday
 - There will be NO Spanish Mass at 12:30 due to the fact that the priests who so generously come to serve our community are in the high-risk category.
- Weekday Mass schedule
 - 5:15 PM Tuesday
 - 9:00 AM Wednesday through Friday
 - 9:00 AM First Saturday
- The Church is open for private prayer
 - Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
 - Saturday: Noon – 6:00 PM
 - Sunday: 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered by Fr. Doug:
 - Saturday: 3:30-4:00 PM
 - Sunday: 10:00-10:30 AM
 - By appointment
 - Due to its small size, the confessional will not be utilized. The screen has been set up in the doorway of the adoration chapel. A can of wipes has been placed there. You are encouraged to wipe down the kneeler before and after use.
- **At this time, all we are beginning is Mass.** When we feel it is prudent to do so, other liturgies and devotions (such as adoration, Jesus by Candlelight, Vespers, etc.) will return on a case-by-case basis.

PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES FOR WEEKEND MASS

- The State of Ohio, Bishop Thomas, and we are highly encouraging that you wear a mask when in the building.
- Doors will be propped open so that you do not have to touch the handles.
- After entering, please sanitize your hands using one of the sanitizer stations. You are encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer and keep it with you (please do not use sanitizer on the pews as it ruins the finish).
- The baptismal font remains on as the water is chlorinated. The CDC has found no evidence that COVID-19 spreads through water and they report that routine chlorination will inactivate the virus.
- Please keep a distance of six (6) feet between yourself and those who are not of your household at all times.
- Please pick up a bulletin as you enter the gathering space. No hymnals will be utilized during this time. The music for our liturgy will be printed in the bulletin.
- Baskets for your offertory envelopes will be placed just inside the doors to the nave (the worship space). They will be emptied following the beginning of Mass and replaced for the exit.
- The pews have been numbered 1, 2, and 3 with yellow, blue, and pink paper, respectively.
 - In general, the following schedule will be utilized: 4:30 will be #1, 8:00 will be #2, and 11:00 will be #3.
 - On weekdays, the system will be dependent upon whether funerals occur and our cleaning schedule.
 - There will be papers on the doors indicating which pew will be utilized for that liturgy.
- Please try to maximize pew space. If your family can fill an entire pew, please do so.
- If it is not raining in or unbearably hot, the emergency fire doors will be open to help with ventilation.
- All procedures that were in place prior to the suspension of public Mass remain in effect:
 - No distribution of the Precious Blood
 - No exchanging of the Sign of Peace

- No hand-holding/contact during the recitation of the Our Father
- At the end of Mass, the ushers will release your sections so that social distancing may be maintained. Please exit the building as quickly as possible. If you wish to talk with others, please do that outside.

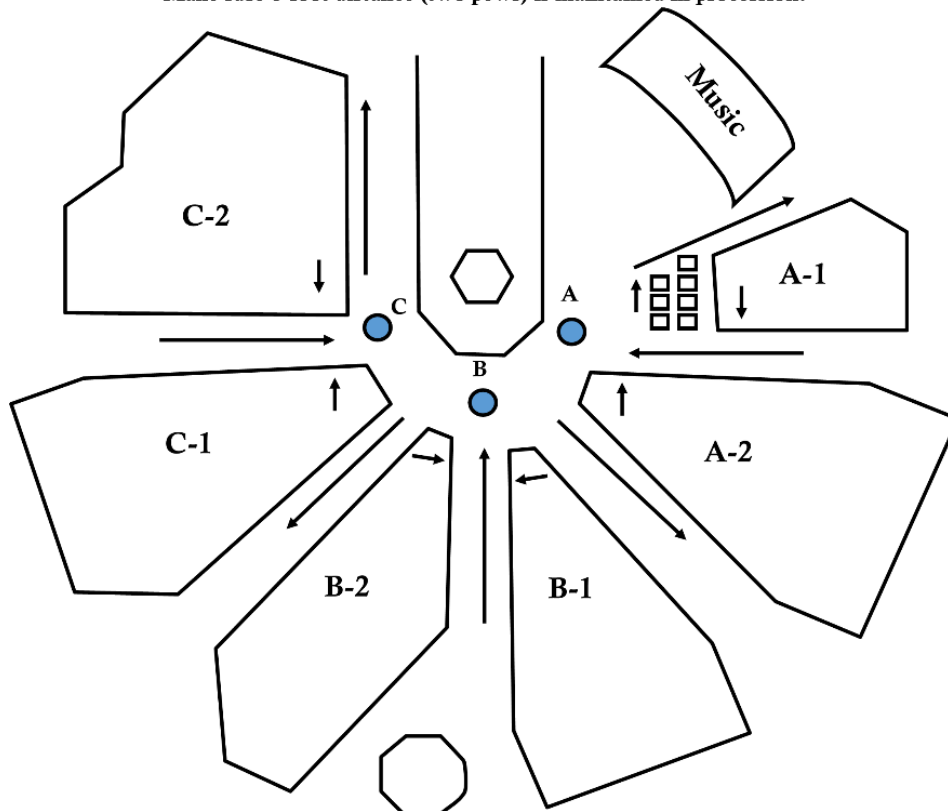
COMMUNION PROCESSION

- When it comes time for distribution of Holy Communion, Fr. Doug and the other ministers will be wearing masks. They will sanitize their hands prior to distribution. You are encouraged to sanitize your hands prior to leaving your pew.
- There will be three total ministers for communion, each taking care of two sections.
- There are Xs on the floor noting a six foot distance in each of the aisles.
- When approaching the minister, there is a line of tape on the floor where you are to stand to receive.
- Please extend your hand as flat as possible
- The minister will raise the host and say, “The Body of Christ.” After you reply, “Amen,” they will place the Eucharist in your hand. Please step to the side and consume the Sacred Host.
- Communion in the hand is **STRONGLY** encouraged; however, the *Norms for Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion* leave the choice up to the communicant. If you feel you must receive on the tongue, you **MUST** go last in the procession.
- Reminder that you do not have to receive Communion even if you attend Mass. For those who may be unable to receive due to various situations (i.e. conscious of mortal sin) or those who feel uneasy, please feel free to pray the Act of Spiritual Communion which is printed in the bulletin.

A-1, B-1, & C-1 go first. Exit pew to the left.

When first side is finished, A-2, B-2, & C-2 begin.

Make sure 6-foot distance (two pews) is maintained in procession.



HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK, SHUT-INS, AND HOSPITALS

- We are not permitting Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to bring Holy Communion to any other person at this time. This is for the safety of both the minister and the person(s) with whom they would come into contact.
- Until the State of Ohio relaxes visiting restrictions, we are unable to bring Communion to those in nursing home and care facilities. Of course, in danger of death, a cleric is permitted to visit.
- For those at their home who are gravely ill, they should call the office for Fr. Doug to come for Anointing and Viaticum.
- As soon as we are able to safely and comfortably relax these restrictions, we will. We know that many are hungering for the Eucharist, but we also recognize “*ecclesia supplet*” – the Church provides. In extraordinary circumstances, such as these, God will provide the necessary graces if we ask for them.

THE PARISH OFFICE

- As of now, the Parish Office is reopening, but on an appointment only basis.
- You are free to call the office during normal business hours (8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday).
- We are asking that anything that can be handled over the phone be done that way.
- For anything that needs to be done in person (cemetery deeds, picking up TRIP, etc.), please call to make an appointment.
- We ask that only one person other than staff be in the office at a time.
- You can still drop off offertory envelopes, donations for Mass intentions, and other items at any time. Feel free to slide them under the door. You may also mail these to the office.
- There will be no room reservations or any gatherings permitted throughout the Parish Life Center (except those necessary for church operations) until *at least* June 15, 2020. We are awaiting more guidance by the State of Ohio and the Office of the Bishop before reopening the PLC for general and outside use.

Please be patient as these can change at any time due to new directives from the State of Ohio or Bishop Thomas and the Office of Divine Worship at the Diocese. Remember that all of these procedures and guidelines are only temporary. We will eventually be able to return to what we knew as “normal.”

Let us take heart and know that God is with us every step of the way on this journey as we navigate this COVID-19 pandemic. As the Lord said on the night before he died, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” (John 14:27). We take comfort in these words of our Savior, knowing he will never abandon us. As we celebrate the great Solemnity of Pentecost this weekend, we pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit into each of our hearts and into the world to strengthen our faith and meet these current challenges with hope.

Sincerely,
The Saint Wendelin Parish Staff

Rev. Douglas Taylor
Parochial Administrator

Jonathan Hay
Business Manager

David Schiefer
Deacon

Anthony Gallina
Pastoral Associate for Worship

Jessica Pehmoeller
Pastoral Associate for Catechetical Formation

Tami Honse
Weekend Coordinator

Christina Torres
Weekday Operations

Rob Reinhart
Head of Maintenance

Cheryl Brandeberry
Custodial Staff

Daniel Bye
Custodial Staff