

## **CHURCH OPEN**

Please note that the Church will be open by appointment only. Please call the rectory at 330-527-4105 to schedule an appointment.

## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION VIA LIVE-STREAMED OR TELEVISED MASS**

Viewing a live-streamed, online, or televised Mass is an opportunity for the faithful to remain connected to the Sacrifice of the Mass during this difficult time. Please take the time to view Mass online as individuals and as a family. A complete schedule for Sunday Masses can be found on the Diocesan website: [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org) under the MEDIA tab. Another source includes: [www.watchtheMass.com](http://www.watchtheMass.com) from the CatholicTV Network offering daily Mass in English Sunday through Friday and in Spanish every Sunday. Below are recommendations that are being shared with you, the parishioners of St. Ambrose parish, on how to make a 'spiritual communion' when unable to participate in Mass. These can be adapted based upon personal and family needs:

Gather with others in your household and begin a time of prayer with the sign of the cross.

Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. Scripture readings can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Additionally, a televised schedule of Mass is available at [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org) under Media tab.

Share prayer intentions quietly or aloud.

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Offer a prayer for healing, strength, or forgiveness or any prayer available during the coronavirus pandemic: <http://www.usccb.org/.../usccb-president-reflection-and-praye...>

Close with the sign of the cross.

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

All weekday and weekend Masses that have been scheduled will be rescheduled at a later date.

## **FUNERALS**

The directive from Bishop Murry states that funeral Masses with a very limited number of people present are permitted. Public viewing/calling hours in the church building are to be avoided. Memorial Masses can be scheduled at a later date.

## **RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION**

To help minimize the risk of exposure during this sensitive time, confessions will be by appointment only and will not take place in the small enclosed confessional. Rather the confessions will be heard in a larger room where a confidential conversation can take place. All attempts to keep a sufficient space between the priest and penitent will be made. The Sacrament of Reconciliation may not be celebrated virtually (i.e. video chat, facetime, via phone, etc.) and General Absolution is not permitted.

## **BAPTISMS**

All parishes in the Diocese of Youngstown are asked to observe some temporary practical norms concerning the Sacrament of Baptism. Except in the case of extreme pastoral urgency, it is recommended that baptisms be postponed. If a baptism is held there are to be no more than 10 people present. Family members in vulnerable populations should be encouraged to stay home.

## **WEDDINGS**

If possible, weddings are to be rescheduled for the time being. Any wedding that is held must be done with no more than 10 people present and who do not exhibit any symptoms. All precautions and sanitizing must be observed.

## **CONFIRMATION**

Bishop Murry has said that the Sacrament of Confirmation ceremonies are postponed at least through April 12.

## **FIRST COMMUNION**

Presently, First Communion for St. Ambrose is scheduled for May 3. In these uncertain days it is not yet known whether or not we will need to reschedule this celebration to a later date. We will keep you updated regarding this.

## **HOLY COMMUNION to the SICK and HOMEBOUND**

If the visit is in a hospital environment, the priest and/or Eucharistic Minister must follow the hospital directives regarding personal care and cautionary measures. For Eucharistic Ministers bringing Communion to the homebound, they must follow these guidelines:

Wash hands or use a hand sanitizer once you enter the home.

Avoid any physical contact with the person or family during the visit.

Use a hand sanitizer again before distributing Holy Communion.

If the communicant usually receives Holy Communion on the tongue, strongly encourage him/her for your safety as well as his/hers, to receive Holy Communion in the hand.

Wash or sanitize your hands after the visit.

Maintain physical distance (six feet) with everyone in the room, except the patient.

Do not offer comfort with any physical contact.

## **PALM SUNDAY ~ HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Palm Sunday

Father Stafford will bless the palms privately. On Palm Sunday, April 5, palms will be distributed in the upper parking lot of the church. Palms will be available for pickup **Sunday, April 5, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.**

Rice Bowls – For those who are using the Rice Bowls as a tangible way of celebrating the three traditional disciplines of Lent – Prayer | Fasting | Almsgiving – are invited to drop them off at the same time you pick up your palms. Also, Rice Bowls can be brought to the Rectory anytime during Holy Week.

Holy Week Services

Chrism Mass and Oils: Bishop Murry will celebrate a private Mass with the Deans to bless the oil and Sacred Chrism. The Mass will be available for viewing on-line by priests and the faithful beginning on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 through the Diocesan website. Deans will make arrangements for the distribution of oils in each deanery.

Holy Thursday ~ Mass of the Lord's Supper: Bishop Murry will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper for viewing on-line beginning on Thursday, April 9, 2020 through the Diocesan website.

Good Friday Service: Bishop Murry will celebrate the Good Friday ~ Passion of the Lord Service for viewing on-line beginning on Friday, April 10, 2020 through the Diocesan website.

Easter Sunday Mass: Bishop Murry will celebrate Easter Sunday Mass for viewing on-line beginning on Sunday, April 12, 2020 through the Diocesan website.

Easter Vigil ~ RCIA Catechumens/Candidates: The current circumstances require that the initiation of RCIA Catechumens and reception of Candidates be postponed.

The directives and guidelines currently remain in effect by order of Bishop Murry and will be revised or changed should any further directives be issued by the Governor of Ohio, the Bishops of Ohio, or Bishop Murry. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call the rectory at 330-527-4105. Indeed, we are "all in this together," and with the grace and help of our loving and compassionate God, we will get through this as a people of faith.