

July 5, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Stephen's Catholic Church

303 Lincoln Way East

McConnellsburg, PA 17233

717-485-3723

Pastor: Father Derek Fairman

Mass Times:

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday at 12:00 Noon

Confession Times:

Saturday before Mass & Sunday after Mass





Week of July 5, 2020



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
Zechariah 9:9-10

2nd Reading:
Romans 8:9, 11-13

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 11:25-30

Ministry Contacts

St. Stephen Church

717-485-3723

<http://www.fultoncatholic.com>

ssmcb@dioceseaj.org

Pastor - Father Derek Fairman

In case of an emergency and you need to contact

Father Fairman, please call the

Everett Parish Office at

814-652-5854

dfairman@dioceseaj.org

Fulton County Catholic Mission

Carmelite Community of the Word

Sr. Martha Burbulla, 717-485-5917

If you see or suspect child abuse...

Call PA Childline at 1-800-932-0313 or

visit <http://keepkidssave.pa.gov>



PARISH
COUNCIL
MEMBERS

Susan Cabbage

Marlene Joyce

Deb Leese

Alex Serrano

Russ Trembl

Janice Wolfe

Collection

Regular/Weekly

Energy

Maintenance

Peter's Pence



MASS
INTENTIONS

- 6/27 +Walter Rapsinski req. by Deb & Loren Leese
- 6/28 +Margaret Fleming req. by Estate
- 7/4 +Angelo Gotto req. by Karen & Jeff Croft
- 7/5 +Mary Bendik req. by St. Stephen Family

Upcoming Events

Theme Basket Raffle

The Family Life Committee would like to begin organizing our annual Fall Theme Basket Raffle.

We need to move forward and bring life back to our Parish. Everyone enjoys getting involved by donating an "original" Theme Basket. But the oldies but goodies are popular too. Please consider making a commitment of donating a basket again this year. The drawing will be held the third weekend in October 2020. Please call Deb Leese at 717-485-3666. We would like to have our tickets printed by mid-July to start ticket sales.

Family Life Bird Lover Drawing

This weekend we are starting tickets sales for a Bird Feeder and Seed and Unique Rustic Bird House Package Raffle. Check it out in the church gathering space! This raffle was to begin in March as our spring raffle, but of course has been postponed. Help support the Family Life Committee by purchasing tickets to win the whole package. Tickets are \$1.00 each.

Let us say a prayer for our Catholic Members who are homebound and unable to attend church.

Pat Frazier Julie Canary Millie Trembl

Peggy Hoffman Doris Nolte

and

All other Members who cannot attend at this time.



There will be certain restrictions at Mass, by request of the Bishop. Those who come to Mass will have to bring a mask. Also, we will have to be spread out in order to keep social distancing. In addition, the recommendation is not to sing. We will not have a procession with the gifts; we will not have our usual altar servers. It will be a very simple Mass, but still meaningful.

For the distribution of Communion, there will be no physical contact for those who receive Communion in the hand. Those who wish to receive on the tongue will have to wait until all others have received.

The obligation to come to Mass is still not in place yet. If you are sick or at-risk, it is perfectly understandable to stay at home. We welcome you back to church when you are ready. If you are at minimal risk, you should probably be fine to come back to Mass, with distancing and masks. If you are not sure, don't hesitate to ask.



To Parishioners celebrating their Birthday in
the Month of July

Happy Anniversary

To all the couples celebrating their
Anniversary in the
Month of July



Have a safe and Happy Fourth of July!

SISTER MARGIE MEMORIAL UPDATE

We have \$5127 in paver sales and donations.

This includes \$234 profit from the hoagie sale.

\$252 has been collected from the present walkway stones.

Digging out the new walkway will begin soon. The layers of stone will sit to settle before the pavers are added.

MASS INTENTIONS

Please put your Mass Intentions in the
offering box.

Thank You

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, July 5, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING 1 [ZEC 9:9-10](#)

Thus says the LORD:
Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion,
shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king shall come to you;
a just savior is he,
meek, and riding on an ass,
on a colt, the foal of an ass.
He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim,
and the horse from Jerusalem;
the warrior's bow shall be banished,
and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.
His dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM [PS 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14](#)

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

I will extol you, O my God and King,
and I will bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and holy in all his works.
The LORD lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

READING 2 [ROM 8:9, 11-13](#)

Brothers and sisters:
You are not in the flesh;
on the contrary, you are in the spirit,
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
the one who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also,
through his Spirit that dwells in you.
Consequently, brothers and sisters,
we are not debtors to the flesh,
to live according to the flesh.
For if you live according to the flesh, you will die,
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,
you will live.

GOSPEL [MT 11:25-30](#)

At that time Jesus exclaimed:
"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to little ones.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

*I will praise
Your Name forever
my King and my God!*

Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14

Letter from Bishop Mark

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Someone recently told me that she could hear the sigh of relief recently as restrictions were lifted that allowed for our churches to reopen. Numerous people have remarked how grateful they are to attend Sunday Mass and receive the sacraments, especially the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. And they have mentioned how good it is to pray and worship with others in person.

I have not heard any criticism about the need for distancing or the way in which the financial offerings of the people are collected in a manner that avoids unnecessary physical contact.

However, there is one concern that is increasingly being brought to my attention. It has to do with the use of face masks. A better way to describe it is the growing number of letters and email messages advising me that people are simply not wearing face masks inside church.

A number of reasons for not wearing face masks have been shared with me, including:

- It's hard to breathe because it is too warm in church
- We are in the green zone, so masks are no longer necessary
- It's too awkward for my kids who keep pulling them off
- Where I live we are strong people and we have that herd immunity
- As a young adult I have been out socializing with friends and no one has masks

I am well aware that no one wants to tell others to wear a mask. Pastors don't want to be the bad guy. Ushers don't want people giving them an earful if they mention anything about masks. Parents are frustrated when they try to get their children to cooperate.

As I listen to all of those comments, I am also mindful of the concerns of people who come to Mass with the reasonable expectation that everyone is doing their part in observing the directives that were announced as a necessary part of the reopening of churches.

I am also mindful of the expert advice I have received and continue to receive. The message remains the same. Masks are the most important means of protecting yourself and others when you find yourself in a group.

In places throughout the country where businesses have reopened and people are gathering without using face masks, there has been an alarming increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. News reports indicate that the number of confirmed cases in the past month have doubled in many of those places. As a result, the restrictions and closures are being reinstated.

The people of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown have been known as being pro-life. That value and commitment of being pro-life is not limited to being against abortion of children. It extends from conception to natural death. It extends to every human person because we are all made in the image and likeness of God.

The care we have for ourselves and for the well-being and safety of others is found in Sacred Scripture. Just think of the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-15), when the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" And Cain replied, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

We know the answer is yes. We are responsible for each other. Our Lord Jesus Christ affirmed that when he reminded us that we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Luke 10:27). And Jesus went on to describe in the story of the Good Samaritan that we must literally go out of our way to help someone in need (Luke 10:29-37).

In that famous Gospel story, Jesus reminds us that there are times when caring for others involves an inconvenience and even a sacrifice on their part. That care for others is to be generous and done with compassion for the other person.

So how does this apply to all of us when it comes to COVID-19, face masks, and being in the parish church for Mass?

Wearing a face mask is a way in which we can love ourselves, since it is for our individual protection. Wearing a face mask is a way in which we can love our neighbors, so that an invisible virus is not spread from one to another. And remember, there are lots of people who have COVID-19, but they don't have any symptoms; they don't know that they have it.

I AM REPEATING MY PERSONAL APPEAL TO ALL OF YOU TO USE A FACE MASK WHEN YOU ATTEND MASS AND OTHER PARISH GATHERINGS.

In previously announced guidelines, I advised that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains in effect, but if you cannot or should not attend due to medical conditions, you are encouraged to watch Mass on TV or via the internet.

Some people have chronic health conditions that make it extremely difficult to use a mask. If you are in that category, you are not obliged to attend Mass. At the same time, if you wish to receive Holy Communion, you should make that known so that Holy Communion may be brought to you as long as that is necessary. This can be done by a priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

If it's just too warm to wear a mask during Mass, you can remain outside, and wait to receive Holy Communion without entering the church according to the plan that each parish should have in place.

ALTAR SERVERS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS, READERS (except for when they are actually reading), AND ANYONE ELSE WHO ENTERS INTO THE SANCTUARY (including deacons/priests) ARE TO WEAR A MASK.

MASKS ARE TO BE WORN BY USHERS, ORGANISTS, SONG LEADERS (except when they are engaged in singing).

When you are in church for Mass, THE MASK SHOULD ONLY BE REMOVED FOR A BRIEF MOMENT WHEN YOU ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, AND THEN IT SHOULD BE PUT BACK IN PLACE UNTIL MASS IS FINISHED AND YOU HAVE EXITED THE CHURCH.

The use of face masks is the number one means of protecting yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19.

I received a number of compliments from public health officials and government leaders for the implementation of the measures that were in place in our churches, schools, and other parish buildings.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you again for your cooperation in this effort. However, I need to be clear that unless the proper precaution of utilizing face masks is observed by everyone, it may result in the closures once again. No one wants to return to that experience.

So here is the bottom line: FACE MASKS ARE NOT OPTIONAL WHEN WE COME TO CHURCH.

As the slogan goes, "We are all in this together." And that includes the presence of the Lord Jesus among us and with us.

Don't let yourself even think about a slogan once suggested by Cain in the very first book of the Bible: "Am I my brother's keeper?" Apparently Cain did not know the answer. But you do. "We are all in this together."

Enjoy the July 4 Independence Day celebrations; but be safe. And enjoy the rest of the summer by taking good care of each other.

Bishop Mark