

George Jones

From: Julie Greer
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:32 PM
To: Julie Greer
Cc: Lumpe, Fr. Michael
Subject: Update for May 26
Attachments: Funeral Guidelines.pdf

Brother Priests,

Come Holy Spirit! The week between Ascension and Pentecost brings particular anticipation as we are making our preparations. I hope you have a good Memorial Day Weekend and celebration of the Ascension of the Lord. I am hearing good news from some of the pastors who had people at Mass yesterday and today. I found myself very moved seeing familiar faces at the noontime Mass today.

The Divine Worship Office has outlined some guidelines that might prove helpful to you and your parish team. I attach a copy for your information.

And I remind you that I will offer the Virtual Baccalaureate Mass tomorrow evening at 7:00 PM, (live streamed and broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio) for all High School Seniors and their families. Heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2020!

As always, my gratitude and prayers
Bishop Brennan

Celebrating a Funeral Mass During the Pandemic

Vigil

- Contact the funeral home prior to the vigil; and follow any guidelines that are set.
- Wear a mask (and gloves if needed).
- The CDC has noted that at this time there is no known risk attending a funeral of a person that has died from the virus, however one should refrain from touching the body.
- Comfort family members and friends from a safe distance.
- Feel free to pray the Rosary, read Scripture, etc., but from a safe distance.
- If the vigil is prior to the funeral Mass, do not ride in the same car as the funeral director or family to the church.

Mass

- It is important to follow the guidelines concerning the celebration of Mass set out by the Diocese of Columbus.
- Attendees who do not live in the same household should stay at least 6 feet apart and wear a cloth face covering when interacting with people who do not live in their household.
- People who have been living in the same household can comfort each other in typical ways such as hugging, holding hands, and sitting next to each other.
- Attendees should nod, bow, or wave instead of holding or shaking hands, hugging, or kissing anyone who does not live in their household.
- Attendees should sit in the designated pews so as to social distance.
- For the reception of the body, it is best to have the immediate family in the church with others outside.
- Funeral directors, with gloves, should place the funeral pall on the casket.
- If cremated remains are present at the Mass, allow the funeral director to place the urn on a table.
- One lector should be chosen to read both readings.
- Cantor should remain in the choir loft or at the cantor stand.
- If incense will be used, the celebrant should handle the thurible and the boat.
- The celebrant should be the only one distributing Holy Communion.
- If receiving Holy Communion, attendees need to lower their masks and remove gloves.

Committal

- Leave the church in an orderly manner as to not violate the 6 feet social distancing between families.
- On the way to the cemetery, do not share a vehicle with anyone.
- While it is customary for the clergy to ride with the funeral director to the cemetery, it is best if he drives himself.
- Once at the cemetery, the committal should take place outside (near the gravesite) as many chapels cannot accommodate the social distancing guidelines.
- Military honors can take place as long as social distancing is maintained.

