



March 2, 2022 – Ash Wednesday

Dear Parishioners,

Here are some important updates for you:

### **Beginning of Lent**

Happy Lent everyone! Today we begin our Church Discipline of Lent beginning with an act of humility. The placing of ashes on our heads is a prayerful reminder of our humility before God and our need for his love and mercy. We recognize that we need a savior, and that savior is Jesus Christ. We also undertake this season in the hope of unifying ourselves with those who suffer throughout the world. Today the Holy Father has asked the faithful especially to dedicate this day of prayer, abstinence and fasting for the people of the Ukraine. We hope that hearts that are hardened may be softened to love as we ought and respect all life as created in the image and likeness of God.

### **Masks in Church**

Yesterday we received a message from Msgr. Stephan Moloney, our Diocesan Administrator, regarding an update on the wearing of Masks in Churches of the Diocese of Columbus. The following has now gone into effect:

- Parishioners are no longer requested to wear masks.
- Those who feel safer may continue to wear masks and should be respected for their choice.
- Parishioners who are ill, have significant health risk factors, or care for someone who is immune-compromised or ill, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety about contracting COVID-19 in a large group of persons, continue to be excused from the obligation to attend Mass.
- While not mandatory, clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may still wear masks during the distribution of communion.
- The distribution of the Precious Blood to the congregation remains prohibited until further notice.
- Parishioners should stay connected to information coming from medical and other experts, and to stay home and get tested for COVID-19 when experiencing COVID like symptoms.

### **Lenten Parish Mission**

We will be hosting a Lenten Parish Mission 3 nights this month. Featuring Andrew Petiprin and Joe Zambon, both fellows at the Word on Fire Institute (part of Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Catholic Ministries). They will present talks (Andrew) and lead us in music/worship (Joe) each night beginning at 6:45pm on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Topics for each evening will be: (Monday) Is God Real?, (Tuesday) Who is Jesus Christ?, and (Wednesday) Why the Church? Also, there will be time set aside for Eucharistic Adoration on Monday evening, a Penance Service on Tuesday, and a concluding Mass on Wednesday. More information will be forthcoming in the bulletin and on our parish website. We hope to see everyone there! Also be sure to check out the bulletin and website for other Lenten activities.

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony A. Dinovo, Jr.

Pastor