

Dear Celina Cluster Parishioner,

We begin with words of gratitude and thanks for all the sacrifices, extra efforts, perseverance and patience you have witnessed since the pandemic began last year when so many things in our lives were suspended, especially the “source and summit of the Christian life,” our celebration of the Eucharist. While the pandemic is not over, things have improved. We are gradually returning to many things that we once took for granted, perhaps even the celebration of Mass. Our hope and prayer is that our return to the Eucharist may not merely be a return to a familiar pattern of life, but a much deeper awareness of and appreciation for the amazing gift we have as Catholics receiving the “real presence” of Jesus himself.

Our constant focus throughout the pandemic has been the safety and well-being of all parishioners so that our cluster parishes can be places where everyone feels welcome and everyone feels safe. We appreciate your patience and trust as we continue to discern the best steps forward.

Changes have been more rapid in recent weeks, and perhaps at times confusing. May 6th the Archdiocese gave permission for increasing seating capacity, but also encouraged maintaining social distance seating when possible. Governor DeWine announced lifting all restrictions effective June 2nd and the CDC issued a statement that fully vaccinated people no longer needed to wear masks. On May 13th, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio issued a statement that the general obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (including the Saturday/Vigil Mass) would be reinstated effective the weekend of June 5-6, 2021 noting the exemption for those who are seriously ill or have significant health risks. You can read more about the obligation to attend Mass on the next page.

Following are the steps we are now taking and encouraging:

[Each of our cluster churches have open seating with the following conditions:](#)

The South wing pews of IC Church maintain social distance seating using every other pew for all weekend Masses

The 4:30 PM St. Teresa Mass will continue until further notice with social distance seating using every other pew

All other pews in our cluster churches other than the IC South wing pews and the St. Teresa 4:30 PM Mass are available for use if needed. Color coded Mass time designations will remain on the ends of the pews to encourage social distance seating when possible.

Wearing masks is encouraged, especially for those who are high risk and/or fearful of larger crowds. Weekly emails with cluster wide Mass attendance percentages will continue to help parishioners discern when safe to return to Mass. If you would like to be added to weekly emails, please contact the parish office. We encourage all to receive the vaccine.

Offering boxes/baskets are at the entrances of church at IC and St. Teresa. Please drop in your envelope/offering as you enter. OLG will continue using long handled baskets during offertory. We are grateful for your continued generosity. Offertory envelopes can also be dropped off or sent to our respective parish offices or online contributions can be made to each of the parishes at <https://celina-ic.weshareonline.org/index.aspx> (Please note that WeshareOnline is hosted on the IC website to reduce administrative costs, but funds are directed to each specific parish)

Holy Communion is being distributed at the front of each cluster church with parishioners processing forward in the center (and side aisles at IC) and returning in the side aisles of each section. Parishioners are asked to social distance in communion lines. Ministers of communion will wear masks. Holy Communion on the tongue is strongly discouraged.

Blessings & Prayers, Fr. Ken & Fr. Tim