

August 13, 2020

Dear Immaculate Conception Chapel community members,

As the University welcomes its students, faculty, and staff back to campus, modifications must be made to the celebration of Mass in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. We've implemented some of these as we have gathered for Mass this summer. We have been delighted to see some of you in person this summer and to welcome others of you virtually through the UD Campus Ministry YouTube Livestream.

The Eucharist, as source and summit of our faith, is a critical component of the spiritual life of a Catholic, and we eagerly join together to experience Christ's presence in the Eucharist. However, gathering as a group carries with it the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

As we enter into the academic year, we remind you that those residing in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati have received a dispensation from their Sunday obligation for the foreseeable future, so attendance at any Mass is voluntary at any time and may be done any day of the week. We have also resumed weekday Mass at 12:30pm and will be adding 7:00pm Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday (Sunday Vigil Mass). Our Sunday Schedule will return to 10am, Noon, 6:00pm, and 8:30pm.

Given that our typical Sunday Mass attendance during the academic year is about 1000, and we have a capacity of approximately 50 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, we feel it is necessary to offer the opportunity to attend Mass to as many people as possible by utilizing an RSVP system. For these reservations, we will utilize the 1850 platform offered by the university.

To RSVP for any Mass in the Immaculate Conception Chapel:

Students, Faculty, and Staff: Log into 1850, and join the group "Campus Ministry Mass, Interdenominational Worship, and Public Prayer" Once you've been validated as a member, you can search the group events. Masses are listed by week. All of the Masses for the week are contained in one event, and within that event you choose the day and time of Mass that works for you. Initially, you will only be able to register for one Mass per week. Once the week begins and pending availability, the Masses will be released as individual events and you may be able to RSVP for additional Mass times.

Those without a UDayton address: Visit https://1850.udayton.edu/events?search_word=Mass
All of the Masses for the week are contained in one event, and within that event you choose the day and time of Mass that works for you. Initially, you will only be able to register for one Mass per week. Once the week begins and pending availability, the Masses will be released as individual events and you may be able to RSVP for additional Mass times. To register, choose the week that you want and click register. Follow the prompts from there.

A core tenet of the University of Dayton is that *we are a University for the common good*. With a disease such as COVID-19, we are all vulnerable to some extent. Out of love for our neighbor, there are outward expressions of safety and solidarity we are asked to make within the context of liturgy at UD. Please find a summary of the adaptations we are implementing to reduce risk of exposure for all at the end of this letter

Campus Ministry will be live streaming Mass select weekdays and every Sunday on the [UD Campus Ministry YouTube Channel](#). If you don't already, you should like UD Campus Ministry on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [1850](#).

There is no playbook for how Mass should run in a pandemic. We have spent many, many hours considering the best guidance, liturgical practice, and the needs of our space/community. We continue to refine our plans as we experience them. We are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist, uniting in prayer with the Body of Christ present in a variety of ways.

Please be in touch if you have any questions. Let us continue to pray for safety and health for all at this time, and for an end to this pandemic.

Peace and prayers,

Crystal Sullivan and the Campus Ministry Liturgy Team

Summary of Adaptations to celebrating Mass at UD

Arrival and Seating: Please enter through the large center doorway. 6ft spaces will be clearly marked on the sidewalk so an appropriate distance can be maintained between households. After entering the chapel doors, **please check in using your QR code (students) or name, sanitize your hands and wait for someone to seat you**. You may need to wait outside the chapel for a few moments, so consider the weather when you arrive.

Face coverings: The University has adopted the CDC recommendation that all who are physically able and older than two-years-old should wear a cloth face covering. If at all possible, please bring your own. There will be a limited supply of single use non-medical masks available at the chapel doors should you forget yours as we all get used to our new routines. **The covering should be worn throughout the liturgy to protect others from the microdroplets that are expelled from your mouth and nose during normal breathing and speaking.**

Singing: Some studies have shown singing is a "superspreading" activity, and out of an abundance of caution, we will not have any congregational singing. Participation in the liturgy is still our right and responsibility by virtue of baptism, but we have judged this must be balanced with care for neighbor and public health. There will be instrumental music and a musician who will sing some parts of the liturgy.

Pace of the Mass: Mass will move with a “reverent expedience.” Processions, movements, and pacing may move a little faster than is our norm to reduce the amount of time spent in a crowd.

Sign of Peace and physical contact: We ask that you do not touch others outside of your household and exchange peace with your brothers and sisters in faith by some means of non-contact communication, such as a bow, wave, or nod.

Communion: Grace comes to us through Sacramental signs, which are perceptible things that become extraordinary in their ability to become expressions of God’s love for us. In the Mass, this is most obvious in the Eucharist. For the time being, there will be noticeable changes to our procedures for communion.

- We will move single-file, one side of the church at a time keeping six feet (~3 pews) between people in line.
- Hand sanitizer is available after you leave your pew before you receive communion. You may either leave your face covering in your pew, or remove it immediately before receiving the Eucharist.
- Please receive communion in the hand only - for the safety of the priest and all who receive communion after you.
- The priest will present the Precious Body to you while you are still distanced, and after your “Amen,” please step forward to receive it, but then step to the side to consume it.

Dismissal: After the liturgy has ended, we will dismiss by row, starting at the back. You may exit using either the center or side aisle, but maintain distance as you do so and avoid congregating in the plaza or courtyards to avoid a backlog. Once everyone has exited the building, those who choose to converse with other community members should ideally wear face coverings and maintain at least 2 arms of distance between households.