



The Catholic Parishes of Athens & Meigs Counties

75 Stewart Street, Athens, Ohio 45701

www.athenscatholic.org

March 20, 2020

RE: Latest Updates

I pray that you are doing well, and that you know the Lord's presence among us during this time. We priests are adapting and adjusting to new routines and patterns. Of course, you remain in our prayers each day. Our minds and hearts are united with you to God, as we each lift up our voices in prayer with others across the world. I want to share with you some information on what's happening in our parishes. Love to you all!

Office Hours and Bulletins

During this time, our parish offices will be open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. The offices will be closed all day Wednesdays. On Fridays, the office will be open until noon.

There will be no printed or online bulletins. We will simply send any updates via Flocknote, [the parish website](#), and [Facebook](#).

Churches are Open

Our churches are open for private prayer. Please respect the boundaries of others while praying. St. Paul is open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily, including Sunday. Christ the King is open 24 hours by using the back metal door near the parking lot. (If problems develop with this time, Christ the King will be locked at night).

If anyone would like to unlock and lock Sacred Heart each day, please let Wendy know (592-2711 or wserbonich@athenscatholic.org). If anyone would like to unlock and lock Holy Cross or St. Mary of the Hills, please contact Sabrina (592-2711 or skotts@athenscatholic.org). One person does not have to take on the responsibility for this task every day. Many volunteers would be great so someone could be in charge of unlocking and locking one day a week. We do not expect the person taking care of this to stay at the church all day; simply make sure the church is unlocked each morning and locked each night.

Confessions

The Bishop is allowing us to hear confessions during this time. He has made the following method for hearing confessions **obligatory**:

1. Confessions can only be heard through a screen, which will be six feet away from the priest.
2. The penitent is to stand behind the screen. If a person chooses to kneel, it must be on the floor. No kneeler will be provided so as to avoid touching many surfaces.
3. Those waiting to go to confession should spread themselves out through the church and not stand close together.

Starting Saturday, March 28, Confessions will be heard in the side chapel of Sacred Heart (on the left side of the sanctuary behind the Mary statue), and Cry Room of Christ the King from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. This will continue each Saturday.

Masses

Right now, you can find Masses broadcast on TV or the internet. Simply search the web or check the guide on your TV to see if you get EWTN. (Recommendations for web search: [Word on Fire](#), [EWTN's YouTube Channel](#))

We will be streaming Mass from Athens sometime next week.

If you watch a Mass online, you can make what is called a "Spiritual Act of Communion." What's this? Maybe you have broken the one hour fast, are in a state of mortal sin, or are home bound and can't get to Mass or Communion. In these cases, the Church encourages us to make an act of "spiritual communion," where we unite ourselves to God through prayer. It is a beautiful way to express to God our desire to be united with Him when we are unable to complete that union in the reception of Holy Communion.

Below is a traditional prayer of spiritual communion that many saints have prayed over the years. It can be prayed if you find yourself at Mass unable to receive the Eucharist, at home during this time, or even in the midst of your daily work, lifting up your thoughts to God.

*My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.*

