



May 24, 2020
Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Dear Parishioners:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The word “accompaniment” draws its etymology from Latin meaning “to share bread with someone.” At St. Mary’s we have missed that companionship in its truest sense – sharing bread with each other in the Eucharist and being bread for each other as a parish community.

Bishop Milan has instructed pastors to follow closely state guidelines for the reopening of parishes. Right now, we have begun a “soft open” this weekend. You will notice the following:

- The entire Church has been sanitized.
- Pews and chairs have been adequately spaced to facilitate social distancing.
- Pew books have been removed. You are encouraged to take those in the narthex or bring your pilgrim’s prayer book. Don’t worry; you probably have memorized more than you think!
- Hand sanitizer and wipes are located in the narthex. Please wipe down your space at the conclusion of services.
- Use of masks is encouraged. Some have been provided in the narthex.
- We are using wooden spoons for communion, one per person. The spoons are burnt following the Divine Liturgy.

For the immediate future, please note the following regarding Divine Liturgy:


- Bishop Milan has dispensed with the Sunday obligation to attend liturgy for the time being.
 - However, you are obliged to honor the Lord's day in your home with prayer and rest.
 - Those who are at risk or sick with coronavirus may stay home.
- We will offer the following weekend opportunities for worship:
 - Saturday: Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. (through May 30); Vespers, 5:30 p.m.;
 - Sunday: Matins 8:30 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
- Note that attendance at Vespers or Matins satisfies our duty to honor the Lord's day. I understand that people want to receive the Eucharist, so I am offering a Saturday morning liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

through May 30. Since Bishop has dispensed with the Sunday obligation, Saturday morning would be an option for those who wish to celebrate the Eucharist during the weekend. We are exploring the possibility of outdoor services at the shrine.

- Please consider which of the four services you would like to attend; we would like to spread people across the services as possible to maintain adequate social distancing.
- I kindly ask that non-parishioners call ahead or email to make sure there is space. See information below.

If you have any questions, please call me at the parish: (219) 659-0277 or cell: (216) 212-0295 or email: frasummerson@parma.org

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Andrew J. Summerson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Andrew J. Summerson, S.Th.D.