



**Basilica and National Shrine of  
Our Lady of Consolation**  
Conventual Franciscan Friars  
315 Clay Street  
Carey, OH 43316-1498

Dear Parishioners and Pilgrims:

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIFTING OF THE COVID RESTRICTIONS AT MASSES AT OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION**

**These changes will take place beginning Saturday, June 5, 2021, at the 5:00 PM Mass.**

- ❖ Beginning the weekend of June 5/6, the obligation to attend Mass by the Bishop is re-instated.
- ❖ The ropes will be removed from all the pews in the Upper Basilica and the Original Shrine Church and Social Distancing no longer needs to be observed. It will no longer be necessary to wear a mask in either space, however in accord with the directives of the Ohio Catholic Bishops, you still have the option to wear a mask if you choose.
- ❖ In the Lower Basilica, the ropes on the pews provided for social distancing will remain. Please continue to wear a mask in the Lower Basilica out of consideration for those who are uncomfortable without a mask. Mass will continue to be televised and Holy Communion brought to those attending Mass in the Lower Basilica.
- ❖ The Priests and the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must still use hand sanitizer before distributing Holy Communion and must wear their masks while distributing.
- ❖ Communicants have the option to receive Holy Communion in the hand or on the tongue. As a common gesture of the unity of the Body of Christ, everyone is strongly encouraged to remain standing when they receive Holy Communion. Those who wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, please wait until all others have received in the hand.
- ❖ At each weekend Mass, there will be three ministers and the priest administering Holy Communion: two in the middle aisle and one at each side aisle. People in the center aisle will form two lines.
- ❖ At this time, the administration of the Precious Blood in the chalice is still suspended. Sometime in the future, the practice may be restored if we have a sufficient number of commissioned Eucharistic Ministers available to distribute the Precious Blood.
- ❖ The hymnals have been placed in the pew racks and the Bulletin will continue to be utilized as a worship aid.
- ❖ The Entrance and Recessional Processions from the entrance to the church will be restored.
- ❖ The choirs will return in the fall with the advent of cooler weather.
- ❖ The Holy Water fonts at all entrances to the church will again be filled with Holy Water.
- ❖ Parishioners are asked to respect the way their fellow parishioners choose to show the sign of peace.
- ❖ Fans will not be placed in the church. The noise they make makes it very difficult to hear what is going on during the Mass.

A special thank you to all, who out of consideration for the safety and well-being of their fellow parishioners, observed so faithfully the restrictions given by the CDC and the Ohio Bishops this past 15 months, despite the inconveniences caused by the restrictions.

Blessings,

Fr. Thomas Merrill, OFM Conv.  
Rector and Pastor

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**Your Journey to Faith, Hope and Healing**

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