Virtual assessment: As an unprecedented school year impacted by the coronavirus outbreak comes to a conclusion, diocesan teachers and administrators evaluate their virtual learning experiences, Page 3

Still in this together: Just because some sense of normalcy has returned, including a resumption of public Masses, it doesn’t mean everyone should go back to the way life was before the coronavirus hit, Mark Huddy writes, Page 4

New book by local author: Columbus author Emily DeArdo’s new book “Living Memento Mori,” published by Ave Maria Press, incorporates her powerful personal journey of suffering with the Stations of the Cross, Page 5

PUBLIC MASSES RETURN TO DIOCESE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH

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Daily public Masses return this week to parishes in diocese

By Doug Bean

Catholic Times Editor

The long wait is over for the return of publicly celebrated Masses in the diocese.

On Monday, May 25, several parishes offered Mass for the first time since mid-March when Ohio’s bishops closed churches because of the coronavirus outbreak. The first day that Bishop Robert Brennan had approved for the faithful to gather at Masses also happened to fall on Memorial Day, when those who have served their country and died in the line of duty are remembered in a special way.

Other parishes that didn’t offer Mass on Monday were doing so throughout the week, culminating with the first public Sunday Masses on Pentecost weekend, May 30-31.

At Columbus St. Catharine Church, the 8 a.m. daily Mass on Monday drew approximately 175 people. After more than two months of watching livestreamed Masses, many of those in attendance were able to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time since the shutdown. More than a few were moved to tears of joy to be back.

“I know all of you are excited to receive the Eucharist for the first time in 70 days,” said Father Dan Dury, the parish pastor. “Get ready. Get ready to encounter the risen Lord.”

For priests, having people in the pews was a welcome sight.

“It’s been hard on our community not have been able to come to Mass for 70 days,” Father Dury said. “As Catholics, we believe in the sacraments. And we unite ourselves with Jesus Christ through the Eucharist, where he becomes present here at the altar. And this is why we yearn to come to Mass — to receive the Eucharist for the first time since the shutdown. More than a few were moved to tears of joy to be back.

“In the listing of the all-diocesan academic honor team in the May 24 graduation section of The Catholic Times, Bryson Vogel of Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School was incorrectly identified.

Holy Family Parish employee charged with alleged sexual contact with a minor

Michael Maxwell, a member of the maintenance staff at Holy Family Parish, Columbus, was recently charged by the Columbus Police with sexual contact with a minor.

Holy Family Parish and the Diocese of Columbus were informed of the allegation against Mr. Maxwell, and the Parish immediately placed him on administrative leave pending the result of a police investigation. After a subsequent investigation by authorities led to Mr. Maxwell being charged, his employment was terminated.

Holy Family Parish and the Diocese of Columbus will continue to cooperate fully with law investigative agencies regarding this matter. If anyone has information relevant to the investigation, please contact the Columbus Police at 614-645-4545.

Holy Family Parish and the Catholic Diocese of Columbus are committed to providing a safe and secure environment to all persons within our faith communities. Established programs and guidelines are in place to offer assistance and protection to anyone who feels endangered or threatened. All are instructed to notify immediately their local law enforcement agency and then inform Diocesan administration if made aware of any form of threat either within or beyond the church environment.

Holy Family Parish employee charged with alleged sexual contact with a minor

Father Dwayne McNew is celebrating his 25th anniversary as a priest in the Diocese of Columbus this year. In the May 17 edition of The Catholic Times highlighting priests with significant anniversary dates in 2020, a photo with Father McNew’s biography incorrectly identified him. Below is a new photo with his biography.

25th ordination anniversary

Father Dwayne A. McNew, 55, pastor of West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude Church, is a native of Big Spring, Texas. Bishop James Griffin ordained him at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on June 24, 1995.

He also has been pastor of Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church and Marion St. Mary Church, associate pastor of Zanesville St. Nicholas Church and Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish and administrator of Columbus Holy Cross Church.

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As school year ends, teachers grade ‘virtual’ experience

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this school year has been like none that preceded it. With school buildings closed since mid-March and the academic year about to end, teachers and students have adapted to the challenges of online learning in a variety of ways.

“From what I can see, it looks like some kids are doing fine, while others are struggling through,” said Larry Gallick, head of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School’s fine arts department and a teacher for 21 years, the past five at Hartley.

“If we had this to do again next year, we’d certainly have our ducks in a row much better,” he said. “This year, it was more of a struggle because there wasn’t much time to switch from classroom to online learning. I teach ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing and photography, and it was easier to make the switch in some cases than others.

“For drawing, we sent pencils and paper home and can work online through phones or video. We were lucky to have thought ahead of time about the possibility of school closings, so we sent painting class student home with canvases, paints and brushes.

“For photography students, it was a little harder, for most don’t have Photoshop at home, while we have it at school. But at home, the students are still able to do nine-tenths of what they did in school.

“It’s a little harder for sculpture and ceramics students. I have them watch videos of historic works of art at home and critique them. We have a good bit of back-and-forth via email. They can’t do big installations in the corner of a room, so instead, they’ll do smaller ones in a cardboard box and show me the results,” Gallick said.

“Our drama teacher has students write 20-minute one-act plays and present them. But with the students separated, the plays can’t have a cast, so the writers have to perform their own plays as monologues, using different voices.

“All this means a lot more work for teachers and students. The drama students video their plays to me and I send them back with comments. For painting students, the biggest difficulty is trying to blend colors. They take a photo of something they’d like to paint, then draw it. They email the results to me. I put the two into Photoshop, compare colors and mail a response back to them. This is done back and forth with 10 kids twice a week.

“It takes longer, but it’s an advantage to them because now they have a written document, rather than verbal comments from me, meaning they’ll probably better remember what I told them. I’ll probably continue this process when they get back to the classroom,” Gallick said.

“As teachers, we’re doing what we can so students can be successful, and we think we’re doing all right. We know we will incorporate some of what we’ve learned into our classroom lessons in the fall. But as much as I say things are working out all right, I still want to get back in the classroom and see everyone face to face.”

Most teachers have been working from home, but the portability of computers means Gallick took his laptop to his father-in-law’s home along Lake Canterbury in east Tennessee and worked from there for a period. His trip combined education and family activities, as Gallick was helping his father-in-law pack up household items in preparation for a move.

Nicholas Hamilton, assistant principal at Columbus All Saints Academy, who has taught social studies and science there for 25 years, said online learning was “like playing baseball with the opposite hand. You know what you need to do, but sometimes it doesn’t turn out the way you want to.”

“When you’re with students, you’re able to fix mistakes easier when you’re in the same room,” he said. “Also, I’m finding more students taking more ownership of their projects while they’re at home and making themselves more accountable in finishing lessons.”

Word came on Thursday, March 14, that all Ohio schools were to be closed after March 18. That closing eventually was extended to the end of the school year. “When the initial closing was announced, the teachers at All Saints worked together to sign kids into Google Classroom, where we posted assignments and videos throughout the week,” Hamilton said. “We had weekly calls with parents on Thursday nights through the Zoom videoconferencing system in which we’d talk about plans and answer questions.

“A few kids had internet connection issues. For those, we passed out Chromebook computers with the help of Miss Miller and Mrs. Borowski (Laura Miller, principal, and Megan Borowski, assistant principal) to make sure that at least the students in the older grades (fifth through eighth) would be connected in some way,” he said.

The Chromebooks enable him to have live classes on some occasions. “Many of our students have multiple siblings in school and have to share devices, so all our teachers are working on multiple ways of reaching students,” Hamilton said. “Sometimes we post videos; sometimes we have live classes to teach certain concepts.

“One benefit of this new way of learning is that students seem to be taking more ownership of their work, making themselves more accountable in finishing lessons.

“I miss communicating with the students in person,” he said. “Solving problems with them in the classroom creates a greater sense of knowledge of what they’re going through. This is a different type of work environment for me. I’ve never sat down in class as much as I do now. Usually, I move around the classroom. I’m more tired sitting at a computer.

“Our kids are very adaptable. When you see them rise to meet a challenge like this, persevere and get quality work done, it’s a great lesson.”

Hamilton said he has found that learning from home has been a great benefit for many students. “Sometimes school can be distracting because students are more interested in what’s going on with their classmates than with what they’re learning. Without those distractions, it’s easier to finish their lessons at home,” he said.

Carrie Cass, assistant principal at Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School, has a different view of learning at home. “It’s much easier to hold students’ attention when they’re physically in the same classroom,” she said. “There are no outside distractions. Working from home, they have siblings, animals, other electronics and outside things that can disturb their concentration. And, in many cases, one or both parents are away from home because they’re working.”

Cass has extensive experience in teaching online because, for 15 years, she was part of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, one of the state’s original distance learning programs. “That made it a blessing in disguise when we had to close school at Fisher because the staff here was able to tap into a lot of my experience.

“We started to have an idea around February that we might have to close the school. We kept hoping we wouldn’t, but we still wanted to give kids educational opportunities for the rest of the school year and prepared accordingly.

“I teach English for grades nine through 12 and an honors English class. We developed a program using the Google Education suite and the ProgressBook online platform to set up a virtual classroom each day. Students...
We are all in this together – right?

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, we reflect on how the coming of the Holy Spirit drew people together as believers in all of their diversity of languages and customs, and united them in heart and mind in Christ. For the Apostles, this was a dynamic transition from fear to the boldness of love. The power of God’s love made manifest in Jesus Christ became the new measure for conduct and action in the world.

When we entered into the current pandemic response with its many restrictions and efforts to keep people from contracting or transmitting the virus, we saw many proclamations from the media, and from governmental and business sources that “we are all in this together.” A new spirit of sacrifice and cooperation seemed to emerge from the seriousness of what we were facing together. Health care workers, police and fire responders, grocery store employees and social service providers were lauded as everyday heroes, putting their lives on the line for our welfare. We were united in the common purpose of keeping people safe from an invisible pathogen and its deadly consequences.

Now in the midst of our gentle reopening, many seem to have lost the sense of common purpose and show signs that they are so done with this pandemic and that they resent the hardships, great or small, that they have been asked to bear. In addition, there is evidence that value judgments are being made between the cost of protective measures and the worth of certain lives. There is also evidence of racism and anti-Semitism in some public reactions to the pandemic. Remembering that I profess to be a Christian, I have to ask myself a few questions in the light of the fire of the Holy Spirit and the consuming love of God.

-- Do I see that the burdens of COVID-19 have fallen most heavily on those already vulnerable in our midst, like those working in our food industries and meat processing plants, who can’t work from home, who can’t take sick days with pay, who aren’t provided a safe work environment with social distancing and protective equipment, who live in highly concentrated living environments that threaten themselves and those with whom they live? Specifically, in the Northeastern part of our Diocese, many immigrants find themselves in these situations. How can I be a voice or a contributor to their safety and security?

-- Do I remember that detainees, inmates and corrections officers in our jails and prisons bear the likeness of Christ, and that due to the often overcrowded conditions, they are greatly at risk for contracting COVID-19 and transmitting it to others? What efforts can I make to ensure that those who contract COVID-19 receive proper medical treatment? What efforts can I take to ensure that those who do not have the virus are better protected from getting it? Sign the Statement of Solidarity at https://catholicsmobilizing.org.

-- Do I realize just how many people have no adequate safety net for the economic and social consequences of this pandemic? Unemployment, business failure, food insecurity, eviction, isolation, declining mental health and lack of health insurance threaten many of my neighbors. Do I contribute to organizations that help mitigate these consequences, like our Catholic social service agencies, the Catholic Foundation Emergency Fund, or the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

-- Do I balk at wearing a mask for the protection of others at Church or at a retail store? Do I see everyone as a neighbor or another self? Am I willing to publicly uphold everyone’s dignity?

As we prepare for Pentecost, let us pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will set us on fire with love for God and our neighbor and bring about a true unity that will last.

Extraordinary evangelization in extraordinary times

I’d heard about Father Alexander Sherbrooke long before we met in June 2011; Father Sherbrooke had been a mentor for young friends of mine who had worked at St. Patrick’s Church in London as pastoral assistants and catechists. When we finally got to know each other in person, I had that wonderful experience of knowing, almost instantly, that here was someone with whom I would remain in serious (but also rollicking) conversation – someone on whose friendship I could rely as spiritual ballast.

What Father Sherbrooke has done at St. Patrick’s in his 17 years as its pastor is little short of miraculous. Soho Square, where the parish is located, is in London’s West End, a thoroughly decadent part of the city that caters to every imaginable human appetite. The church’s roof was penetrated by a Luftwaffe bomb during World War II and the parish was in tough shape, pastorally and financially, when Father Sherbrooke arrived.

Then came the miracles of grace, channeled through constant prayer, hard work, pastoral imagination, and support from the pastor’s many friends and followers.

Today, St. Patrick’s is the thriving center of the New Evangelization in one of the unlikeliest neighborhoods of one of the world’s most diverse cities. Beautiful liturgy in a magnificently renovated church, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a prayer line the afflicted can call for spiritual assistance, an extensive ministry to the poor, and a catechetical school that has trained dozens of young Catholics for work in the trenches of 21st-century evangelization fill out an exceptional pastoral program – all of which is fueled by the parish’s intense Eucharistic and Marian piety.

I’ve been a frequent guest at St. Patrick’s over the past nine years (and had hoped to return in late May). On one occasion, I was permitted to pour the gravy at the Christmas dinner the parish hosts for those who would otherwise have no Christmas dinner. On another, I participated in an Advent procession through the streets of the West End: a statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was borne on the shoulders of parishioners, amazing those who came out of the local pubs and shops to see what was afoot (anyone who inquired was given a Miraculous Medal or a rosary, and a prayer card). There was little about St. Patrick’s, I thought, that could surprise me.

But Father Sherbrooke and his people have now outdone themselves.

The parish had long helped the homeless who depended on whatever they can beg from those going to toney West End restaurants, theaters, and pubs. With those venues shut down by the Wuhan virus, many were in desperate straits. So Father Sherbrooke and the parish stepped up, persuaded two well-regarded restaurants and the Pret-a-Manger chain to provide meals and sandwiches, and in recent weeks have been feeding over 200 people a day, some of them twice a day. Meals are served and lavatory and shower facilities are available in the church’s undercroft; the volunteers who staff this work of charity and solidarity take appropriate measures to ensure that St. Patrick’s doesn’t become a center for spreading infectious disease.

At the center of this striking example of Christian service is the Eucharist. Mass is celebrated on the sidewalk in front of the church and Eucharistic adoration follows, typically accompanied by the rosary. A prayerful reading of the Scriptures, the traditional lectio divina, is available for those who wish to participate; so is confession; both are conducted in special tents. Those who come to the church to be fed are also offered spiritual sustenance in a printed weekly program that includes suggestions on how to pray, biblical readings, and simple meditations. Evangelization and catechesis are thus wedded to service of the poor.

The glue that binds it all together is the deep Catholic conviction and intense spiritual life of Father Sherbrooke, which inspires a generosity of spirit and a passion for mission in others. At St. Patrick’s in Soho Square, truth and mercy meet, as they’ve met in the lives of Father Sherbrooke, his parish staff, and the volunteers. There is something quite biblical about this, as those who’ve been reading the Acts of the Apostles with the Church during this strangest of Eastertides will recognize.

Evangelization, which must always include the witness of caring for the Master’s lost sheep, is the new normal in the Catholic Church. It was the new normal at St. Patrick’s years before COVID-19. And that prepared the parish for its extraordinary work in extraordinary times.
Beyond death, to life: Diving into the Stations

By Sarah Reinhard

Living Memento Mori: My Journey through the Stations of the Cross
Emily M. DeArdo
2019, Ave Maria Press
$13.95

It’s a sad fact that, for most of us, the Stations of the Cross are relegated to those Fridays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday. And why is that?

I’d say, it’s habit.
We have so many devotions to choose from: the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Liturgy of the Hours, various and sundry consecrations, daily Mass, lectio divina, and the list goes on.

And because of the richness of these devotions, it’s handy to have a relevancy that pairs the devotion with the liturgical calendar.

Knowing that, I’d invite you to step outside your comfort zone and walk through the Stations using Living Memento Mori by Emily DeArdo of Columbus.

DeArdo has paired the Stations with memento mori, a Latin phrase that reminds us to remember our death, one popularized by Sister Theresa Aletheia Noble of the Daughters of St. Paul over the past couple of years. In fact, Sister Theresa Aletheia penned, in the foreword, that DeArdo “imparts valuable lessons she has learned while suffering with Jesus by her side.”

Which is exactly what makes this book unlike any other Stations of the Cross devotional I’ve read. In fact, I was halfway through before realizing that each chapter represents one of the Stations. (DeArdo clearly outlines that in the introduction. And yet, it wasn’t shoved into my face as I was reading, making it even more powerful.)

It reminded me of a whiskey my brother-in-law shared with us recently. We loved it. But we couldn’t say why.

When he visited us a few months later, we talked about this whiskey, and I remembered that he had mentioned some of the same things in an earlier discussion, including the smoothness and how the barrels were stacked.

But until we had the experience, the conversation about whiskey nuts and bolts didn’t have any meaning to us.

Which brings me back to DeArdo’s intermixing of memento mori and the Stations of the Cross: After my first pass through the book, reading it slowly and reflectively, I noticed many fine things. But when it struck me that her insights weren’t just nice — they were directly related to the Stations and to Jesus’ suffering and to the impending death we all face — it was with that same aha that I experienced when I (re)learned the details of that whiskey we loved.

The Stations are a devotion you may or may not be comfortable with. You may or may not be an old hand at praying them.
And maybe reflecting on death is something you are OK with.

I’d love to hear how you walk away from journeying through this book. I suspect it will be the difference between my enjoyment of fine whiskey for the tastes that I have no names for and my brother-in-law’s insightful and expert unpacking of the layers.

That doesn’t mean you should avoid this book if, like me, you are a bit of a die-hard devout.

Peppered among the approachability of DeArdo’s writing is wisdom of the highlight-and-save variety. “In heaven, we will also have our battle scars,” she writes. “When Jesus was resurrected, the marks of all he endured were still there. That’s how the disciples knew they were seeing Jesus. Glory doesn’t erase everything that came before.”

A friend and I read this together, and in our conversations about it, we kept marveling over how normal DeArdo seems. This isn’t someone holier than you or me, but someone from the same, or similar, trenches sharing the hard truth that somehow encourages you.

Who says “thanks” to someone who tells you, “You’re going to die”? Me. After reading this book.

Scent of holiness provides sweet comfort

My 8-year-old daughter made peanut butter cookies yesterday morning. I had run to the grocery store and came back to the smell of burned cookies wafting through our home. At least it kept me from eating them for breakfast.

Well, almost.

But if each breath were an act of concentrated observation, might we pause to marvel at the sweet aroma and majesty of our creator?

My boys’ bathroom upstairs is a mixture of too much shaving cream, not enough soap, a zesty overuse of toothpaste — the decorated ceramic sink shows evidence — and a reminder that flushing the toilet is a gift to mankind, not just the family. Upon opening my older girl’s bedroom door, I’m hit with an onslaught of warm sugar, vanilla and spring flowers. Lots of spring flowers.

Each room in my home has a scent; indeed, each person in my home has a scent. I roll over and breathe in the scent of my husband and am grateful — both on sweaty days for his sacrifice and for the more peaceful moments when breathing him in is like inhaling the Holy Spirit into my soul. Every parent can attest to taking a whiff of their child’s head and smelling a fresh bath or a day filled with sandbox and swings.

Breath. It has a purpose. Yes, it is life-sustaining. By breathing in, we draw in oxygen and draw out carbon dioxide. But if each breath were an act of concentrated observation, might we pause to marvel at the sweet aroma and majesty of our creator?

I am reading a biography about Chiara Corbella Petrillo, an Italian mother who saw her suffering as a gift from Our Father to know him better. The authors, Simone Troisi and Cristina Pacini, speak about the sanctifying aroma of holiness. This phrase has woven its way into my soul and is playing a soft, constant pad, as my musical son would call it, over my days. When someone walks into my home, I want him or her to pause, breathe in all the sights, sounds and smells of holiness. That is my desire, my aspiration and my prayer for my journey and for yours.

And yet, she’s laughing, living and struggling — same as you and me.

What she has compiled in this devotional is not the thin booklet you hold on Lenten Friday nights when you’re kneeling in the dark church and smelling fried fish in the air. This is, instead, a true journey, with a friend by your side. This is heart-wrenching, eye-opening and truly a book for our times.

“The happiest moments of my life have happened on completely ordinary days,” DeArdo writes. “In fact, they were often days that, in other respects, weren’t that great.”

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sanbury St. John Neumann Church.

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Priests welcome reopening of churches but urge caution

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Priests throughout the Diocese of Columbus are eager for the return of sacramental life in churches but also are concerned about the safety of parishioners.

“I’m excited to get back to the previous sacramental life,” said Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan evangelization coordinator and administrator of Columbus Sacred Heart Church. “Not only are the lay faithful hungry, but priests are looking forward to it. Yet there’s also a spirit of caution, and I think the bishop’s letter (available on the diocesan website at cumbuscatholic.org) and guidelines balance that excitement and caution.”

Catholic churches in Ohio have been closed since mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic. On March 12, Ohio’s bishops dispensed all Catholics in the state from the obligation of attending Saturday vigil or Sunday Mass through the end of March. Four days later, the bishops announced that all publicly celebrated Masses and other parish activities in the state would be suspended through Easter, April 12. That suspension later extended through Sunday, May 3 and again through most of May.

Public daily Masses began in many parishes on Monday, May 25, with weekend Masses resuming Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31. Confessions began in some parishes earlier in May.

Bishop Robert Brennan has dispensed the faithful of the diocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until Sept. 13. He also has issued guidelines asking those attending Mass to maintain a 6-foot separation (family groups excepted), to wear cloth face covering (parishes are encouraged to offer masks to those who do not have them) and to maintain hand hygiene.

“Those attending Mass are asked to wear a cloth face covering. Hand hygiene includes washing their hands prior to coming to Mass, bringing their own hand sanitizer, sanitizing their hands before and after touching any surface, and avoiding needless touching any surfaces.”

• Those attending Mass are asked to maintain physical distancing before, during, and after Mass. Physical (safe or social) distancing is defined as maintaining six feet separation between others. Members of the same family are not bound by safe distancing.

• Those attending Mass are asked to wear a cloth face covering. Hand hygiene includes washing their hands prior to coming to Mass, bringing their own hand sanitizer, sanitizing their hands before and after touching any surface, and avoiding needless touching any surfaces.

• Those attending Mass are asked to maintain hand hygiene. Hand hygiene includes washing their hands prior to coming to Mass, bringing their own hand sanitizer, sanitizing their hands before and after touching any surface, and avoiding needless touching any surfaces.

• Parishes will have specific procedures for a safe environment for the return. Such planning includes making hand sanitizers available at the entrances of the church, disinfecting commonly touched areas, limiting seating to ensure safe distancing.

• Mass schedules may need to be altered to ensure sufficient time for disinfecting. Overflow locations or advance ticketing may be necessary for safe distancing.

• Those “high risk” persons are not to serve in a liturgical ministry or as a volunteer for Masses. Ushers and greeters will be required to wear masks and gloves.

• Holy water will not be available.

• Masks will be worn by priests, deacons and Eucharistic ministers at the distribution of Communion.

• Music will be limited.

• No offertory procession (bringing up the gifts) will occur.

• The distribution from the chalice is omitted.

• The instruction “Let us offer the sign of peace” and subsequent sign of peace is also omitted.

• The distribution of Communion will follow safe distancing practices. The reception of Holy Communion in the hand is strongly encouraged.

These instructions remain in place until further notice from the bishop’s office.

See REOPENING, Page 7
REOPENING, continued from Page 6

rent Mass schedule for now. “I don’t know what will be down the road,” he said. “For parishioners, I want this to be as close to coming back to their faith home as possible. There will be enough things different.

“We had to delay some weddings, not just to avoid COVID but because family members have COVID. That’s heartbreaking,” he said. “There have been no baptisms. We had virtual graduation for eighth-graders, but not the school’s traditional ‘clapout.’

We’ll have a drive-by version next week, but it’s not the same. It’s hard not to give kids that experience, but we have to balance what’s meaningful with keeping everyone safe.”

“I have a lot of apprehension” about the return to worship, said Father Theodore Machnik, pastor of Circleville St. Joseph Church. “I want to make sure the people have a good, prayerful experience and am concerned with social distancing.

“I’m concerned that people are expecting a lot more than what we’re able to offer them at this time,” he said. “It’s not going to be a grand reopening with trumpets. We’re a small church, and with the social distancing restrictions, we can hold only 88 people, seated in every other pew. I hope parishioners understand this, or else they’re going to be disappointed.

“It’s a restrictive situation, and there’s no use pretending Mass will be what it was. Now that restrictions on most businesses have been removed, it’s interesting to see how many people aren’t wearing masks and doing physical distancing. They think life will be as it was before, but it can’t be.”

Father Machnik said he was celebrating his daily Mass privately and not livestreaming it, giving his parishioners a chance to view a Mass from another church or priest than the one they normally see. “There are a lot of good priests doing live Masses, and I’d like to give my people the chance to see them,” he said.

He said his most memorable experience during the pandemic came during the Easter Vigil. “This also was a private Mass, and of course it’s THE Mass of the year in the Catholic Church,” he said. “Our town decided to have a rolling car show at the same time as the Mass, so you had cars backfiring and a deejay playing music at the same time Mass was going on. I was thinking that I should be celebrating with my people, and I couldn’t do that, yet the city could have a rolling car show.

“One of the things I was going to do when the lockdown began was call all the parish’s shut-ins. But before I could get started, one of them was calling me. That was a wonderful moment.

“Also, some of my private Masses weren’t totally private. In a couple of cases, I walked to the homes of people who were grieving loved ones and invited them to Mass.

“People have been bringing me plenty of food, so I’ve only needed to go to Kroger’s every three weeks or so. It’s been a great outpouring,” he said.

“I’ve been doing weekly talks on Facebook, and, as I mentioned in one of them, the pandemic has been God’s way of telling us to ‘take a timeout,’ as a parent would say this to a small child. The physical interaction we’ve been lacking is so important, and I do miss that contact with caring people, spiritually and physically. We’ve learned there are so many blessings around us we shouldn’t take for granted. Cherish and treasure what we have.”

Powell St. Joan of Arc Church is changing its weekend Mass schedule, switching from one Saturday evening, one Sunday evening and four Sunday morning Masses to Masses at 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday. Father James Black, pastor, said in a letter to parishioners that this was being done to “better allow cooperation between nearby parishes, and, more importantly, provide a sustainable plan for the pastoral care of our faithfull.”

He said the changes were made to coordinate his parish’s weekend Mass schedule with those of nearby Columbus St. Peter Church and Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, in response to a request at the diocesan synod of priests last October that deaneries work together to stagger Mass times and provide many options each weekend.

“The (Mass attendance) dispensation issued by Bishop Brennan was a wise move,” Father Black said. “It’s of great benefit to people who may want to attend Mass, yet feel they might be compromised by doing so.

St. Joan of Arc Church will have room for about 500 people at each Mass under social distancing guidelines. Father Black said that, if necessary, a second Mass could take place at the same time in the church social hall, which could fit an additional 200 people under the guidelines.

“We’ve color-coded our pews with poster board,” he said. “The color provides a distinctive way of knowing which pews to use at each Mass and also lets us know which pews have been used at other Masses so we can sanitize them.”

He and parochial vicar Father Stephen Smith have been sending out videos and using the Flocknote online parish communication tool to keep parishioners informed. The parish livestreams its 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on Facebook, where it remains for the rest of the day. Previous Sunday Masses are available all day on YouTube. Father Black said about 1,000 people view the Mass each week.

Each Sunday since the pandemic began, the parish has hosted a drive-by food drop-off for local pantries from 10 a.m. to noon in its parking lot. Father Black said response to it has been strong enough that it will continue for the foreseeable future.

“Our people have been very supportive,” he said. “They talk about the (spiritual) hunger they’re feeling and appreciate what they have all the more, especially because they now have a date to return. This point in time has been somewhat of a ‘desert experience’ in the way it has allowed us to appreciate the faith in a much deeper sense.’

Color-coded pews at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church help show people where they can sit for each Mass and maintain social distancing.

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V R U T I A L, continued from Page 3

log in, access their assignment for each day and listen to teachers through videoconferences. Every day, they have access to teachers. They think we are making them do more now. That’s not what’s happening, but they are having to do it independently more than they have in the past,” Cass said.

“Students log in during their scheduled class time using two different video platforms – Google Meet or Zoom – and gather as a class. Because everyone has Chromebooks, they can do this together at the same time as normal class hours. I can teach as I usually would, share, ask questions and load videos.

“Right now, my honors English class is working on its last assignment of the year, a Socratic seminar based on the young adult novel The Giver by Lois Lowry. Students have been analyzing the story and gathering evidence based on three essential questions I gave them.

“We came together through Google Meet to hold our seminar and discuss the students’ findings. Students who did not feel comfortable being on camera or using their microphone were able to participate by using the chat feature in the program to contribute to the conversation.

“It’s important for teachers to find many ways to capture and hold students’ attention,” Cass said. “In some cases, the internet may not be working. Fisher Catholic has many students in rural areas who have little or no internet access, even though the students do have Chromebooks. So I have to create one lesson in three different formats – live, recorded video and written instructions.

“The most important thing I’ve learned from the last few months is that we have to have faith in the students and faith in the faculty, trust that we are all in this together and have the flexibility to work with students where they are.”

Chris Mazon has taught seventh- and eighth-grade social studies for 10 years at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School after teaching for one year at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School. He said that before the pandemic, he had been recording lessons in his classrooms as he taught, for the benefit of students who were absent and those who wanted to review particular points. That experience proved helpful when his home became his classroom.

Like many of his counterparts, he finds himself working longer hours at home than he did in the school building. “I start with a daily check-in of about 30 minutes or so, which I record ahead of time because of connection issues,” he said. “We use Google Meet, and in addition to my regular classes, I have three or four periods of office hours a day where students can contact me with questions or just to talk.

“I start at 8 a.m. and often go to 9 or 10 at night. I’ll stop sometimes, but I’m doing things almost at a 24/7 pace except for sleeping. Online assessments, technical difficulties, checking with the students – mentally it all adds up. Some weeks and days are better than others. The issue isn’t knowing what I have to teach, but how to best use what’s available.”

As a fun way to end a week of learning, Mazon said that he and another teacher have a five-minute dance party over Google Meet for students every Friday.

Mazon has used a number of platforms, including Google Classroom, Google Meet, Flipgrid and Kahoot!, depending on what works best. “In some ways, it’s faster to type something and send it to me than it is to grade a paper,” he said. “But you can’t mimic a face-to-face conversation. Any other method pales in comparison.

“Lectures don’t change, but some things you just can’t do online. I do a gigantic Civil War simulation every year during the fourth quarter but couldn’t figure out how to do the scope of it online. Having a summer to think through how to do things in case things continue this way in the fall will help.

“I’ve learned to be flexible with my lessons, and it’s OK to ask for help,” Mazon said. “I always have another teacher with me when I do Google Meet. It takes a lot of planning, and it takes a team to be more efficient throughout the day. And, as I said earlier, sometimes you just have to stop.

“It’s important to realize that given the situation, I don’t have to be at the top of my game for learning to continue to occur, and it’s the same with the students.”

Virtual discernment event welcomes women

The Dominican Sisters of Peace are welcoming women who are discerning their call to religious life to a virtual mission for peace experience from Friday to Tuesday, June 5 to 9. This free event is open to Catholic women ages 18 to 45 anywhere in the United States and will be conducted on the free Zoom video conference platform.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace use Zoom regularly for congregational meetings and monthly discernment groups. The congregation’s house of welcome in Columbus has been set up with a large-format television and upgraded microphones with the assistance of a grant from The Catholic Foundation.

Participants in the online event will have the opportunity to study and pray with Dominican Sisters of Peace, to take part in interactive discussions and presentations, and to take part in online mission opportunities.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. June 5 and conclude after prayer, a final presentation and a commissioning service at 8:30 p.m. June 9.

To register, visit the congregation’s website at www.oppeace.org or contact Sister Mai-dung Nguyen at (405) -248-7027 or mdnguyen@oppeace.org.

13 DeSales athletes sign to play college sports

Thirteen Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School seniors signed letters of intent to play college sports during a signing ceremony that took place in their homes because of the coronavirus pandemic. They are (from left): top row, Jaylen Ball, Akron, football; Erin Burns, Capital, basketball; Michael Cummins, John Carroll, golf; Owen Faulkner, Akron, football; Jack Francisco, Capital, soccer; second row, Reno Godfrey, John Carroll, football; Gavin Hawk, Muskingum, baseball; Raina Jackson, North Carolina-Asheville, track; Luke Jewett, Muskingum, track; Kobe Righter, John Carroll, basketball; bottom row, Randy Taviah, Mount Union, football; Anya Vanasdale, Capital, cross country; Mason Washington, Robert Morris, football.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

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**Parish donates food to families in need**

Volunteers from Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, including Gloria Muetzel (left) and Lynn Clucus (right), donated more than $2,000 worth of food to more than 50 families in need. The volunteers donned masks and gloves, distributing prepared boxes that included dried goods, canned goods and frozen items such as chicken patties, sausage, waffles, cheese-stuffed breadsticks and fish. “In these difficult times, we realize there are many hardships facing our local community,” said the parish’s pastor, Father Matt Hoover. “Immaculate Conception is happy to donate from our inventory, which we have available to those most in need.”

*Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church*

**Parishioners line up to greet St. Margaret of Cortona pastor**

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church parishioners in more than 100 cars surprised the parish pastor, Father Jeff Rimelspach, at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 3, with a drive-by at the rectory to show their love and appreciation during this time of isolation resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. The cars drove by the rectory in single file waving and yelling encouragement. No one left their cars to maintain social distancing. In conjunction with the visit, participants donated two carloads of nonperishable food items and nearly $500 in cash that was donated to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center food pantry in west Columbus. Pictured at upper right (from left) are Laura, Paul and Johnny Landry, who organized the food donation.

*Photo courtesy Larry Pishitelli*

**DeSales prom royalty**

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School couldn’t have a prom because of the coronavirus pandemic, but it did have prom royalty. Principal Dan Garrick and the school mascot visited the homes of members of the prom court for surprise crowning ceremonies. The prom this year meant no dress-up and no dancing; in fact, as the pictures show, court members made it a point to keep their distance from each other. Shown are the prom king and queen, seniors Mason Rickens and Liz Renken (left photo) and the prince and princess, juniors Jackson Hartman and Gracie Sabo.

*Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School*

**MASSES, continued from Page 2**

be with Jesus, to encounter the risen Lord. So it’s good that we are here, to be with our Lord and to receive our Lord.”

Columbus St. Patrick Church welcomed back Mass-goers at 7 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. Monday, returning to the daily schedule the parish observed before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Father Stephen Alcott, OP, pastor at St. Patrick, described the mood of the congregation as grateful and happy to be back.

“There was some uncertainty getting used to the new safety precautions, but today’s Masses went pretty smoothly,” Father Alcott said. “A couple of parishioners said, ‘It’s great to see you, Father, and not on a screen.’

“They said they very much appreciated the (parish’s daily) livestreamed Masses, but that it just wasn’t the same as being at Mass again.”

The friars at St. Patrick and at other parishes throughout the diocese had reopened their churches for prayer and confessions earlier this month, but the only Masses that had been allowed were for weddings or funerals and were limited to 10 or fewer attendees.

“I was very glad myself to see the parishioners back again,” Father Alcott said. “When a restless child started making some noise during my homily, I said, ‘Isn’t it wonderful to hear the sound of a child in church again?’ The congregation agreed.”

Policies and procedures for attending Mass, including social distancing, masks and hygiene, are outlined on Page 6 of this week’s Catholic Times and also on the diocesan website at columbuscatholic.org.

**Father Dan Dury, pastor at Columbus St. Catharine Church, welcomes back parishioners from the altar for the first publicly celebrated Mass at the parish in 70 days on Monday, May 25.**

*CT photo by Ken Snow*
DOROTHY A. RILEY

A memorial service will be conducted for Dorothy A. Riley, 92, who died Saturday, May 2.

She was born on April 27, 1928 in Akron to Stearl and Grace Riley and lived in Columbus for the last 55 years.

She was a professional church organist for 68 years, taking on her first position at age 14 and retiring at age 82. Among the churches she served were Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron and Christ Lutheran Church in Bexley.

She studied at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea and with renowned composer and organist Marcel Dupre at the Church of St. Sulpice in Paris.

She also spent 40 years with the company most recently known as University Music House, serving the organ, sacred choral, and handbell music needs of musicians throughout Ohio and the nation.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Sterling Deininger and David Riley.

Survivors include sons, Tom, Paul (Keomany) and John (Gretchen); daughter, Joyce; stepson, Nathan; stepdaughter, Rachel (Andy); 15 grandchildren; and five step-grandchildren.

JULIE M. STRAUB

Julie M. Straub, 73, died Monday, May 11.

She was born on July 22, 1946 to John and Joan (Berry) Straub.

She was a graduate of St. Mary of the Springs Academy, Ohio Dominican College (now Ohio Dominican University), and Ohio State University.

She taught English and was assistant principal at Columbus St. Joseph Academy and provided reading support at Columbus St. Timothy School. In the 1970s, she was kitchen manager at the Agora music club in Columbus and had a catering business.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Richard. Survivors include siblings John (Kim), Danny (Alice), Paul (Nan), Sally (Jerry Kamman), Kitty (Steve Hemingway), Berry, Mary and Marty (Christine).

ELLEN “DOC” BUCKERIDGE

A private memorial service will be conducted for Ellen “Doc” Buckeridge, 98, who died Thursday, May 14.

She earned a doctorate in chemistry and physics from Ohio State University and was a science teacher for 25 years at Columbus Bishop Ready High School and The Wellington School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and a sister.
“Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” is the formula for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are marked with Christ on our foreheads, an act which gives us a connection with God from the inside. The Spirit dwells in our hearts. If we begin to see our lives from a perspective of integration, we can see that God really does have a plan for us and that the plan of God for our lives fits every detail of the person each of us is called to be.

Jesus is with us in the Eucharist. But in the Eucharist, he is “bound,” locked away, as it were on the altar or in a tabernacle. That is, unless we carry Him with us, as we have discovered during this time of pandemic. Longing for the Eucharist has led to a greater appreciation for the gift.

The Holy Spirit does not have such a “limit.” The Spirit blows where He wills. But the Spirit requires a resting place, a platform from which to operate.

This divine order of things requires a connection. The “power” is there, and the “plan of action” is there, but something more is required. God chooses to make Himself One with us by respecting our free choice to cooperate with Him. Or not.

We are invited to undo the choice of Babel. Instead of contending against God by building our own earthly kingdom and proving our renown, we are called to allow God to first establish His Kingdom in us. For us as Catholics and Christians, it means three things, each of them simple to do but requiring a commitment to sustain.

We must choose to be for God. God is our ideal, the center of our lives, or He is not. If He is not, then either our own ego or something else in the world is made an idol. If He is our true Center, then all other activities and choices are ordered toward God and His Plan for us.

Next, we must put our whole persons into the act of choosing God: It is not merely a spiritual thing. Many people in our time make a false dichotomy, “I am spiritual, but not religious.” It is really impossible to live like that.

Religion means “binding,” that is committing oneself to a way of living that acknowledges an authority beyond ourselves. When an individual claims to be spiritual without religion, the person is really doing one of two things: either the real center of that person’s religion is himself or herself, or someone else has duped the person into thinking that the commitments made against a particular form of faith and practice are not really religious. The human being is created to worship God. When God is not given His proper place, then any (false) god will do.

We must come to understand the Sacraments from within. Catholics who are able to see the true worth of our religion see that in Word and Sacrament we have the integration needed to get it right. God has made me His own child through Baptism. The Holy Spirit confirms and strengthens me for witness in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Jesus Christ feeds me through His Word and with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. When I live in accord with these Sacraments, everything fits.

When we gather for worship, we are among a group of people, some of whom we know better than others, some we love, some we can hardly stand, some we are still wondering about. Then something happens and the whole world is changed. We discover you have something in common with all of them, something that gives us a purpose and opens you to a new way of life.

Today we pray: “Come, Holy Spirit.” Disposing our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit, we cooperate with the living God to build a kingdom of light and truth and peace.

Pentecost is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, breaking through walls and offering healing and forgiveness and new strength. New gifts are given by the Spirit, transforming those who receive them, and the world hears the Gospel and understands.

**FATHER TIMOTHY HAYES**

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Columbus St. Timothy Church.

**THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS**

**MONDAY**

| Genesis 3:8-19 or Acts 1:12-14 |
| Psalm 87:1-3,5-7 |
| John 19:25-34 |

**TUESDAY**

| 2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18 |
| Psalm 90:2-4, 10:14, 16 |
| Mark 12:13-17 |

**WEDNESDAY**

| 2 Timothy 1:3, 16-17 |
| Psalm 123:1-2 |
| Mark 12:28-27 |

**THURSDAY**

| 2 Timothy 2:8-15 |
| Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14 |
| Mark 12:28-34 |

**FRIDAY**

| Acts 2:1–11 |
| Psalm 119:157, 160-161, 165-166, 168 |
| Mark 12:35-37 |

**SATURDAY**

| 2 Timothy 4:1-8 |
| Psalm 71:8-9, 14-15b, 17-22 |
| Mark 12:38-44 |

**DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF MAY 31, 2020**

**Sunday Mass**

- 10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
- 10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

**Mass with the Passionists**

- Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWTH-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305.
- Mass from Missillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WLBR radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

**Daily Mass**

- 8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala.
- Noon: EWTN above; and on T-Live TV (Channel 113).

**Mass from the Diocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).**

**Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church on EWTN (www.saintjohnsunbury.org).**

**Job Opening – Director of Music at St. John Neumann**

St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Sunbury, Ohio seeks a Director of Music. The Director of Music (DM) is responsible for collaborating with clergy, staff, ministry leaders, volunteers and musicians to plan and execute parish liturgies and music. The DM develops and directs musicians to provide leadership at liturgies that will lead parishioners “to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations called for by the very nature of the Liturgy” (Sacrosanctum Concilium #14).

This is a full-time position with salary and benefits commensurate with experience and qualifications. Interested applicants should send their resume and three professional references to musdir.saintjohn@gmail.com or Music Director Search Committee, St. John Neumann Parish, 9633 E. STATE ROUTE 37, SUNBURY OH 43074 no later than May 27, 2020.


**PRAAYER TO THE VIRGIN**

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendid of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my heaven and earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. CDL.
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