Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On March 15th we gathered for the last publicly advertised celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. I don’t think that any of us could imagine how long this fast would be. But with praise and thanksgiving to almighty God our fast has come to an end. On June 1st we resumed publicly advertised Masses! I want to share with you what to expect when you come to church.

One of the biggest changes comes from the requirements of social distancing. We are restricted in the maximum number of people who may be admitted. It’s possible that not everyone will be able to gain admission to a particular Mass. Effective June 6-7, we are restoring our regular weekend schedule: Saturday, 5:30 pm; Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 am; Sunday, 6:00 pm. We’ll monitor the crowds and adjust as necessary. If need be, we’ll add extra, or reduce the number of Masses for future weekends.

Those who do come to church will now be required to wear a mask or face covering throughout the liturgy. Mass goers will also notice a number of other changes:

⇒ Because singing is difficult while wearing a mask, we’ll reduce the singing role of the assembly.
⇒ The Collection will not take place in the usual fashion. Mass goers will be invited to place their offering in the receptacles found in the entrance of the Church, either before or after Mass.
⇒ The exchange of the Sign of Peace will be offered in a non-physical fashion.
⇒ Out of concern for the safety of others we ask that you receive Holy Communion in the hand.
⇒ The cup of Precious Blood will not be shared by the assembly.
⇒ To maintain social distancing, Hospitality Ministers will disburse the assembly for communion one pew at a time.
⇒ Because of required sanitizing procedures, we cannot permit individuals to remain in the church after Mass.

As we move into this next stage, please continue to pray for all who are charged with implementing actions that reflect the goodness of God. Remember in your prayers as well, all medical professionals, and all who suffer in any way because of this pandemic. We can only learn from experience, and so I know that we’ll rely greatly upon your patience and tolerance as we remedy mistakes and implement better actions. If there is anything that we can do for you please contact us at the Parish Office.

Fr. Michael Sikon
MASS SCHEDULE
The faithful remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligations.
- 220 Attendee Maximum in Church. Regrettably, once capacity is reached, the doors will be closed.
- Mass Schedule: 5:30pm/8:00am/10:30am/6:00pm
- 10:30am Mass will be live streamed.
- The Church is disinfected after each Liturgy.
- The Church will close on Sundays from 1-5:00pm for cleaning prior to the 6:00pm Mass.

COMMUNION
- Eucharistic Ministers will wear masks.
- Host will be distributed into the hand.
- Masks must be worn while in the communion procession. After receiving the host, the communicant will step to the side and then pull down their mask to consume the host.

OTHER SACRAMENTS
- Confessions will be held Saturdays at NOON in the church following all guidelines.
- Baptisms can be scheduled by calling Parish Office.

ATTENDEE GUIDELINES
All those who enter the Church building must:
- Wear a Mask.
- Remain 6 feet apart.
- Wash or sanitize hands.
- Follow posted signage.
- Follow instructions given by Hospitality Team before Mass and during communion.
- Congregating in the narthex is not permitted.

DURING MASS...
- No Physical contact during the Sign of Peace.
- Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- Hymnals are removed.
- Collection receptacles will be in narthex.
- Hand holding during The Lord’s Prayer is not permitted.

PARISH OFFICE
The Parish Office will reopen with these Office Hours: M-F from 9:00am-1:00pm.

STAY HOME IF...
- You have preexisting conditions or are immunocompromised.
- You are feeling sick.
- You suspect you may be sick or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- You have a sick family member at home.

All faith formation, ministry events, and parish meetings remain suspended until further notice.
The Church will be open Monday-Friday from 7:00am-3:00pm / Saturdays 7:00am-7:00pm, and Sundays from 7:00am-1:00pm & from 5:00pm-7:00pm
Formation Update

In the Formation Office, we have been slowly getting things together to be able to begin to celebrate the sacraments we put off during the suspension of public Masses.

I am happy to announce that those who participated in the RCIA process were able to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist on Sunday, May 24, 2020. We congratulate Elana Smiley, Katherine Dopkowski, Kelly Nicassio and Erika Giacomin. Welcome to St. Barbara Parish!

Our first communicants are the next group that we are working on to celebrate their big day. Bishop Malesic has given permission for this group to celebrate beginning in July. So, second graders, watch for a letter from Joan for details on these celebrations.

And last but most definitely not least, are those who prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation. The bishop has again given permission for this sacrament to be celebrated beginning in July as well. Bishop Malesic has also granted delegation to Fr. Michael, which means that Fr. Michael will be celebrating the sacrament and we can schedule those Masses at our convenience. Joan will be sending out more information on these celebrations as the dates and times are determined. Stay tuned.

We have had a few baptisms and more are scheduled in the next few weeks. While we are still using the guidelines from the diocese and CDC, we will schedule only one baptism at a time. The times are Saturdays at 2:00pm or Sundays at 12:30pm. Contact Joan at the office to schedule a baptism.

A Virtual Baptism Seminar will be held on Monday, June 22 at 6:30pm. Contact the office to register for this seminar. All first time parents who wish to baptize their children are asked to participate in a seminar. Joan will conduct the seminar over ZOOM.

While the Formation office is playing catch up we are also planning for the new catechetical year. More information will be coming so stay tuned.

Katherine Dopkowski
Erika Giacomin
Kelly Nicassio
Elana Smiley

The Padezan Family
The Moore Family
OFFERTORY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:

- May 3 - $14,353.59
- May 10 - $17,839.78
- May 17 - $17,578.38
- May 24 - $17,794.81
- May 31 - $11,277.10

We continue to give 10% of our ordinary income to the following organizations:

- CATHOLIC CHARITIES (Diocese of Greensburg)
- Westmoreland County Foodbank
- St. Barbara “People in Need” Account

From April 19—May 31 that amount is: $13,041.

Many have been wondering about the Annual Parish Festival. We all have experienced great uncertainty during the last three months. Recalling the recent past, we quickly stopped our Lenten Fish Fry and the monthly Bingo’s at St. Barbara. So, it is with great sadness that we add to the list and announce the cancellation of our annual Parish Festival. Even though it takes hours of planning and hard work getting everything organized and running, we will all miss out on the comradery with our community, vendors and business sponsors. There is always a new friend to meet, game to run, food to serve. The best part of our fundraisers is building relationships!

Since the annual Parish Festival is cancelled for this July, we have begun discussing new ways to engage the community in an attempt to keep fundraisers going. Stay tuned for future news on that, we will keep you updated as decisions are made! If you have any ideas or would like to help, please contact Jan Shepherd in the Parish Office.

Once we are operating at a normal rate, watch for monthly Bingo to return. And mark your calendars for Lenten Fish Fry in 2021, and the Parish Festival July 16 & 17, 2021.

If you are bringing envelopes with you to Mass, please note that there will be no collection taken up during Mass. There will be two Collection Boxes in the narthex for you to place your contributions. Also, please consider signing up for WeShare. Simply sign on to stbarbara.org and select the “Donate” button on the top right of the home page. If you sign up for WeShare, you may also discontinue receiving the monthly packet of envelopes (just notify the office) since WeShare has the ability to collect for all of the various donations.

We thank you for your continued generosity over these past few months.

STAFF

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These people were remembered in prayer by Fr. Michael during his offering of daily Mass in the month of May.

**Gladys Panichella**  
**Al & Mary Lou Lynn**  
**Richard & Eleanor Mardis**  
**Dolly Rukowsky**  
**Richard & Mildred Rizzardi**  
**Eugene Warzynski**  
**June Grabiak**  
**Bob McCracken**  
**Helen Wright Carosella**  
**Roy Draper Sr.**  
**Robert Laspin**  
**Ted & Mary Stahurski**  
**Mary K. Stieman**  
**Minnie Ward**  
**Tony & Sara Brais**  
**Bob Kacinko**  
**Lloyd Mullin**  
**Albert Finella**  
**Thomas King**  
**Philip Solomon**  
**Martin & Stella Revay**  
**Sandra Hammon**  
**Patti Kopko**  
**Irene Stafancik**  
**John V. Smith Jr.**  
**Bill Marszalek**

**WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED OVER THE PAST WEEKS**

Joseph J. Kidd  
Alice Yuhas

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Rest assured the staff is working day and night, trying to figure out creative ways to gradually and cautiously return the campus and our community to the ever flourishing parish that is St. Barbara.

Currently, we are identifying safe ways for groups and organizations to meet again. One of the roadblocks to this successfully occurring is the cost of disinfecting areas that have been used by a group. We now have the entire lower floor blocked off from human contact so that level remains clean. Every area that we allow occupancy, has to be sanitized before another group can enter. Not only is this a scheduling problem, it is also costly. We have creative minds on duty, so we will figure out a way, just continue to be patient. Actually, some groups have already used their creativity and have met outside! If you are outside and six feet apart … you do not have to wear a mask!! BONUS!

We were able to re-open Adoration. We moved it to the nave of the church (instead of the Chapel) and cleaning will take place afterwards. The new schedule for Adoration is Wednesdays from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

The Rosary is being recited daily after the 9:00am morning Mass.

Somewhat regular office hours have begun with the Parish Office open M-F 9:00am-1:00pm

Little by little, day by day, life on the hill will start to look familiar. We are excited to make this happen in the safest way possible for our amazing parishioners!
My entire summer of 2020 calendar was packed; filled to the gills with formation, service, ministry work and loads of fun and excitement. There were events and trips nearly every week that were destined to take me and the teens of this parish on religious adventures to West Virginia, Ohio and several places in between. Then slowly, one by one, they each started to disappear. At first, it almost felt like a dream. Maybe I’d wake up and maybe everything would just go back to normal. There was no way our entire summer could be gone. Could it?

Then reality set in, and the emotional roller coaster started. My wonderful husband embracing me as I cried (ugly cried if I’m being honest) and began to feel the weight of disappointment push me down. The tears weren’t just for me, but for all my kids who were counting down the days until Manus Christi, Camp Virtue, Steubenville, Cedar Point, VBS and so much more. So now what? What happens when everything your Type A personality had planned vanishes? Well, at first I realized I was letting Satan win. I had lost sight of God’s plan. I had let my fear take over and if I wasn’t careful, I could feel myself drowning in it.

After some encouragement from my sweet husband, friends and family, and gentle reminders from my teens, I picked myself up, stopped ugly crying and began to think outside the box. I refused to let Satan win and I knew God’s plan was bigger than mine. It always is! I opened my back yard (with parent permission) and met with some of my youth core team. We sat around a campfire, laughed, enjoyed the company of one another and decided we are going to make the most of summer 2020. We are going to take on new unexpected adventures. We are going to continue to grow in our relationship with Christ. Our original summer 2020 may have changed, but we now have a clean canvas with summer 2020 2.0. Game on! – Elisa ♥