

## A Message from Cardinal Dolan

### ***“It’s Time To Get Back To Mass”***

God told us, “Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day!”

For two millennia, we Catholics have believed that we best keep Holy the Lord’s Day by Sunday Mass!

Yes, for the last year, we have prudently been able to decide that the emergency health crisis can allow us to excuse ourselves from that God-given obligation.

Our elderly, or people with compromising conditions that weaken them can still excuse themselves, as has always been the case.

But for the majority of us—are we going to restaurants? To the kids’ soccer and little league games? To the store? To the beauty parlor? To gatherings with family and friends?

Well, then, it’s time to get back to Mass.

A year ago, we, your pastors, advised you not to come to church. We had no choice, since wise health guidelines required us to close our church buildings. We reminded our people that protecting our health, and that of others, in the midst of an international pandemic was a very good moral reason not to attend Mass. In the summer, those health precautions eased up a bit, and we could re-open and invite a limited number back.

Our parishes rose to the occasion with scrupulous cleaning, distancing, and restrictions—masks, no holy water or sign of peace, etc., and you gradually began to return.

No more gradual about it!

It’s time to get back to Sunday Mass!

**Excerpts from an article by**

**Cardinal Timothy Dolan**

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**