



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES

*Office of the Bishop*

*Reinstatement of the General Obligation to Attend Mass*

During this COVID-19 pandemic, the Diocese of Las Cruces and its parishes have strived to balance taking reasonable precautions to protect public health and promote the common good, while also continuing to minister to the spiritual needs of the faithful and provide access to the Mass and other Sacraments.

At this time, due to the observance of public safety protocols, the increase in the availability of vaccines, and the fact that 55% of those 16+ in New Mexico have been fully vaccinated, our parishes and society at large have begun to return to some sense of normalcy.

Therefore, I am lifting the dispensation of the Sunday and Holy Days Mass obligation, effective **Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. I welcome the Christian faithful to return to the regular participation of the Sunday Eucharist, the source and summit of our Catholic faith.

However, it is important for Catholics to know that the Church has always provided exceptions to the obligation, and that anyone with a “serious reason” or “grave cause” is excused from the obligation. In the case of this pandemic, “serious reason” and “grave cause” would include:

- Anyone who is sick, symptomatic, or has been recently exposed to the coronavirus. Protecting the health of others is an act of Christian charity and our moral duty to one another.
- Anyone with significant health risk factors that requires them to avoid public spaces, or if you care for someone with significant risk factors.
- Anyone who cannot attend Mass through no fault of their own, for example, due to hospitalization.

Catholics are encouraged to consult with their pastor if they are unsure about their personal situation.

Given the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2021 at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Las Cruces.

+ *Peter Baldacchino*

Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino  
Bishop of Las Cruces

*Rev. Kevin Waymel*  
Very Rev. Kevin Waymel  
Chancellor