

MOST REVEREND  
ALEXANDER K. SAMPLE  
ARCHBISHOP OF PORTLAND IN OREGON



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## DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION OF ATTENDING MASS

Considering the recent decision of the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, to implement various measures aiming to slow the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, including a prohibition on gatherings exceeding 250 persons;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has proposed various mitigation strategies for faith-based communities to protect at-risk individuals and communities;

Whereas it is the duty of the diocesan bishop as pastor to be concerned for all of the faithful entrusted to his care (c. 383 §1), to act with charity toward all (c. 383 §3-4), and to direct, promote, and guard the liturgical life including the celebration of the sacraments (c. 835 §1);

In view of the spiritual needs of the faithful during this season of Lent, motivated by great care and concern for the wellbeing of all those present in our state, and always ready to take steps to preserve human life, I hereby dispense, in virtue of canon 87 §1, the following members of the faithful of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon and those actually present in the Archdiocese from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation (c. 1247):

1. All persons 60 years and older
2. Persons who have underlying medical issues that put them at risk, or persons with compromised immune systems
3. Persons who are not feeling well even with mild symptoms
4. Others of any age who sincerely and seriously think they might be at risk

Those dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass, nonetheless, are bound to keep holy the Sabbath by abstaining “from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body” (c. 1247) and by “devoting themselves to prayer for a suitable time” (c. 1248 §2).

This dispensation shall be communicated to all concerned with immediate effect in accord with canon 62, and it shall remain in force until the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2020.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, everything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample, J.C.L.  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

Sr. Veronica Schueler, F.S.E.  
Chancellor

