

## A Letter from our Pastor

Dear Family of Faith,

For the past 16 months, Catholics have been dispensed from their normal Mass obligation as part of a series of extraordinary public health measures, taken during the difficult days of infectious risk due to the Covid-19 virus. Now that life is returning to normalcy, it's time for us to resume our lives as faithful Catholics. Beginning August 15, the Feast of Mary's Assumption, all Catholics in the Diocese of Allentown will once again be obligated to attend Mass on weekends and on holy days of obligation.

The Holy Eucharist is the anchor of our Catholic life. Eucharist cannot be received virtually at home, nor can it be received through Spiritual Communion. Except for the sick and homebound, Holy Communion can only be received when we are physically present at Mass.

The broadcast Masses were a necessary precautionary step during the pandemic, and they will continue to bring comfort to the ill and homebound. However, participating remotely simply cannot become the norm for those of us able to go about our daily business. If you can go grocery shopping, go to the movies, or any other social events – then, it's time to go back to church.

It is always the case that those who are ill, those who believe they have been exposed to a contagious disease, those who feel they are medically compromised, and those confined to their homes, are not obligated to attend Mass. This standard dispensation will continue.

I'm asking every parishioner to please get this info out to family members, friends and neighbors alerting them that the dispensation has been lifted and it's now time for in-person attendance at Mass.

Let us continue to pray for everyone affected by the pandemic, and for all who have worked tirelessly to make this time of difficulty easier for the rest of us.

With prayerful wishes to all,

*Fr. Rich*

