

MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

435 HICH AVENUE
OSHKOSH, WI 54901
920 231-9782

July 19, 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am happy to share with you that Bishop Ricken has lifted the dispensation for Sunday Mass obligation. Beginning the weekend of August 14 & 15 - the Feast of the Assumption - all Catholics in the Diocese of Green Bay will again gather to worship and share in the Eucharist as a community of faith on Sundays.

Under normal circumstances, all Catholics are required to attend Sunday Mass so that we can receive the grace we need to live a Christian life, fulfill the Lord's Commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, and to be together with our Lord and receive the love he has for us. This is called our Sunday Obligation.

On March 13, 2020, due to the serious threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bishop Ricken issued a dispensation from this obligation. Now that progress has been made in mitigating the virus and due to the precautions being taken at Mass, Bishop Ricken is lifting the dispensation and calling us to return to the celebration of the Mass.

Please visit <u>www.gbdioc.org/BacktoMass</u> for Bishop's column and an accompanying video which explains the lifting of the dispensation and how it applies to you.

MASS TIMES & LOCATIONS

Saturday: 4:00PM St. Peter Sunday: 8:30AM St. Peter 10:30AM St. Mary

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Daily Mass: Mon - Sat: 7:30AM St. Peter

8:30AM Sunday & daily Masses live-streamed on YouTube (bit.ly/MBSOshkoshLive)

Please note there are still occasions when the obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply:

- Those who struggle with serious health concerns or are physically or morally prevented from worshipping at Mass for a grave reason.
- Those who are frail due to illness or age or, if in a well-formed conscience believe that going into public places -- including Sunday worship at Mass -- would place their health or the health of their loved ones in serious jeopardy.
- Those who are sick, or have been in contact with someone who has been sick.

Unable To Attend Mass?

You are an important part of our parish community! We will continue to live stream our 8:30AM Sunday Mass on our parish YouTube channel. Communion visits to the homebound are also available. To arrange for someone to bring the Eucharist to you, please contact Laurie at (920) 231-9782 or mbslpollack@gmail.com.

Those who are unable to attend Mass are urged to make holy the Lord's Day through prayer, reading the Scriptures, watching a broadcast or live-streamed Mass, and taking part in acts of charity

Seating Updates

We know that our parish family is made up of households of many different risk comfort levels. To that end, we will be designating spaces in our worship sites that accommodate varying levels of social distancing:

- The left side of each church will have ribbons indicating the socially-distanced seating.
- The chairs on the side against the wall are also designated for those who wish to remain distanced.

IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY, PLEASE STAY HOME IF:

- + You are showing symptoms of illness such as cough or fever even if not COVID related.
- + You have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

As has always been the case, those who are ill or contagious are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

- The pews on the right side of each church & the chairs in the back will no longer have ribbons and will be for those who are willing to be seated without as much distancing.
- We request that all parishioners and visitors follow the latest CDC guidelines which currently advise those who are not fully vaccinated to wear a mask (over the age of 2).

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"Why do we go to Mass on Sundays? We Christians need to participate in Sunday Mass because only with Jesus' grace, with his living presence within us and among us, can we put his commandment into practice, and thus be his credible witnesses."

"It is the Mass that makes Sunday Christian. The Christian Sunday revolves around the Mass. For a Christian, what is a Sunday in which the encounter with the Lord is lacking?"

Pope Francis, 2017 General Audience

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The obligation to attend Mass for Catholics reflects our faith in Jesus Christ, the blessing of the Holy Eucharist and an acknowledgment of His great love for us. Our longing for the grace we receive in the Eucharist can be fulfilled in no other manner. I look forward to joining together again as a full community of faith to *Encounter Jesus in the Eucharist* so that we may *Live Out the Joy of the Gospel*, and *Bring Others to Christ*.

Peace,

Stay Up to Date!

Text MBSOshkosh to 5532, visit <u>eva.us/mbsoshkosh</u>, call the parish office (920-231-9782) or email mbswebmail17@gmail.com to update your parish contact information.

Fr. Jérry