

**St. Mary Catholic Church
820 W. Madison St.
Alexandria, IN 46001**

765-724-2483

October 23, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

The five Catholic bishops of Indiana, including Bishop Timothy Doherty of the Diocese of Lafayette, have extended until further notice the dispensation from the obligation to attend Lord's Day and Holy Day Masses

The bishops recognize the special measures being taken in parishes to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. However, as the number of cases continues to increase in Indiana, they have determined that an extension of the dispensation is a prudent decision.

Bishop Doherty reminds us all that the obligation to keep Sunday holy is still (and always is) in force, even if that does not include Sunday Mass participation. He writes: "I continue to invite each of you to prayerfully consider attending Mass to fully experience the gift that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist..."

We are invited to consider these criteria when prayerfully making this decision:

- Am I well and currently experiencing no symptoms of my own?
- Am I considered to be in an at-risk group? Or caring for someone who is?
- Am I able to comply with all the necessary diocesan safety protocols in place for my parish?

In the parishes of the Anderson-Alexandria Pastorate, St. Ambrose, St. Mary (Alexandria), and St. Mary (Anderson), those who come to Mass are asked to wear masks, to practice social distancing, and to use hand sanitizer before receiving Communion.

Thanks to all who continue to pray with and support our parishes during this time. Please contact your parish office if you have any special needs, whether or not they are related to the pandemic. Let's continue to pray for each other, for all those who have been diagnosed with Covid-19, healthcare professionals, and public officials in our community, state, and nation.

God bless you!

Fr. Tom Metzger, Pastor

P.S. For the full statement from our diocese (in Spanish and English), go to the diocesan website, www.dol-in.org. It will also be published in the November 1 edition of The Catholic Moment, our diocesan newspaper.