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St. Barnabas Catholic Church

7921 First Avenue North • Birmingham, Alabama 35206

August, 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation through the end of the liturgical year -- Sunday, November 22, 2020 (the Solemnity of Christ the King).

He encourages all the faithful who have not yet returned to church, but have taken similar risks, to start making their way back to church also, even as we continue to take precautions.

In other words, if one can travel to take a vacation or take part in a social event or attend a sports event -- one should consider attending Sunday Mass. If one truly has a legitimate reason for not attending Sunday Mass (elderly person, have major health issues, taking care of the sick or homebound, or really worry one could get sick if one is being near a big group of people for one hour inside a building...) then by all means, the dispensation is truly intended for such a person.

Safety yes. But don't use excuses for any reason not to attend Sunday Mass and be properly disposed to receive the holy Eucharist worthily and devoutly.

As your pastor -- it is my sacred duty to remind all of our parishioners to keep holy the Day of the Lord (Sunday) and please make a good confession and receive Holy Communion as soon as possible if one has not received the Eucharist at all this year.

For the sick and homebound and those who are in nursing homes, ask your nursing homes if they allow the priest to bring you holy Communion and I can bring you Communion. Please contact the parish office and let us know and we can find someone to bring you holy Communion.

The dispensation was only meant to give the elderly and those who are in the "at risk" category or those who "fear for their safety" not to attend Sunday Mass.

I exhort all Catholics to keep holy the Day of the Lord by either attending Sunday Mass or reading the readings for Sunday Mass, praying a Rosary or a Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or watch Mass reverently on television or online.

God bless,

Fr. Vu
Pastor