



Diocese of Cheyenne

Office of the Bishop

DECREE

Since March of 2020, we have been in the midst of a global pandemic caused by Covid-19. Countless people have become ill, and many have died from the virus. The widely accepted medical opinion is that the virus is highly contagious and spread by droplets and aerosols. Face masks, sanitizing hands, distancing from others, and avoiding large gatherings helped to reduce the spread of the virus. Over the last month, the number of new cases and deaths have declined. Even so, the danger for infection remains, especially when people gather in large groups for extended times. Thus, coming together for meetings, prayers, or the liturgy of the Eucharist can result in people being infected and even dying. This is especially true for vulnerable individuals. Although effective vaccines are being administered, it will take several months for the general public to be immunized. Furthermore, variants of the Covid-19 virus may be more contagious and virulent. It may not be safe for some individuals to be at Mass. Also, limitations on the numbers of people who can safely gather could prevent others from participating.

Considering this, I hereby extend to all the faithful in the Diocese of Cheyenne the dispensation from the obligation to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation through Wednesday, June 30, 2021 (see canons 87 §1; 1245). Those who have been fully vaccinated, who are well, who do not have underlying health conditions or are in a high-risk category, and who do not have significant anxiety of becoming ill by participating in Mass, should join their parish in celebrating the Eucharist, while observing the precautions in place.

To those who use this dispensation due to sickness, compromised health issues, or another good moral reason, be assured of our prayers, and know that we need your prayers. I urge you to keep holy the Lord's Day: Participate in a live-streamed Mass, meditate on the Sunday readings, spend time in praying the Rosary or other devotions, meditate on the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, and practice the spiritual or corporal works of mercy.

May we see this time as an opportunity to grow in dependence on the Lord and to develop a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist. As we participate in the paschal journey of Christ's death and resurrection, let us pray for one another, especially the sick, those who have died, medical professionals, and those adversely affected by the pandemic. Know of my prayers for you.

Given in Cheyenne, on March 10, 2021.

Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler DD, STL
Bishop of Cheyenne

Jean M. Chrostoski
Chancellor