

Dear Parishioners,

On June 30th, the Archbishop approved some new Covid-19 Guidelines.

To quote the Archbishop, “With the new status of the COVID pandemic resulting in far fewer infections, hospitalizations, and deaths, and with so many having chosen to receive the vaccine, the time has come for the most significant change in a long time regarding our divine worship. Therefore, I am rescinding the general dispensation from the obligation to participate at Holy Mass on Sundays and holydays of obligation, which I granted on April 6, 2020. This becomes effective July 16, 2021. This means that the faithful are once again obligated to participate in the Holy Mass on Sundays and on holydays of obligation.”

Of course, we should see participation in the Holy Eucharist as a privilege and honor, rather than just an “Obligation”, but hopefully we will all take it a little more seriously and we can encourage those around us to come back to Mass.

What does this mean in practical practice?

General Principles:

All indoor liturgical celebrations and faith gatherings are allowed to take place without capacity limitations, social distancing, sign-up systems, or segregation between those vaccinated and those unvaccinated.

Masks may be worn but are not required.

Liturgical Practices:

All previous liturgical restrictions are lifted, except that the Precious Blood will not be offered to the faithful, and the Sign of Peace will not be exchanged through physical contact. Please continue to be “appropriate” with a nod, bow, or wave.

We will reinstate The Presentation of the Gifts, and the Collection will be taken by passing of the baskets as before.

Holy water has returned to the fonts.

Social Gatherings will again be allowed. We will start Coffee and Donuts next week. Funeral luncheons will resume.

We will continue livestreaming for those who aren’t able to attend in person.

Thank you for the patience you have all exhibited through this global crisis.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Robert Reuber OSB". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor

St Mary Catholic Church, Mt Angel