



Basilica of St. Lawrence  
Deacon and Martyr  
May 18, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

This has been a long and difficult year for all of us. Thank you for the great and charitable sacrifices you have made over this last year in caring for and protecting each other. Let us pray for those who are ill and those caring for them and, of course, for the end of the pandemic entirely. Let us look forward to seeing each other at Mass soon. As you know, the CDC and the Governor of North Carolina have removed certain restrictions which have been used over the last year to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 Virus.

We are already having our regular (Pre-covid) Sunday Mass schedule. Beginning Pentecost May 22, 2021, we will welcome parishioners and visitors to all of our Holy Masses without reservations or alternating pews. We ask that those attending Mass make their own decisions on wearing face coverings, but “anyone who is vulnerable or not vaccinated is encouraged to continue wearing a face covering and to follow social distancing norms” [see DOC [General Executory Decree](#)] or, attend Mass virtually. Please watch the online bulletin for further information about our schedule.

The Diocese of Charlotte has issued new protocols for the Parishes including:

**Liturgical Services:**

1. *Religious services no longer require social distancing or face coverings.*
2. *Those who remain vulnerable are advised to continue wearing face coverings or attend Mass virtually.*
3. *The options of receiving Communion from the chalice and extending the Sign of Peace are to remain omitted until further notice...*

**Mass Obligation:**

*Beginning Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, the general dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation will be narrowed to include only those who remain vulnerable to the coronavirus.*

**Who is still exempted (dispensed) from attending Mass?** *People who are ill or vulnerable to infection are still encouraged to stay at home and attend Mass virtually, on TV or online. If you live in the diocese (or are visiting within the diocese), you are not required to attend Mass on Sundays or holy days of obligation if:*

- *You are ill or your health would be significantly compromised if you were to contract a communicable illness (i.e., you have underlying conditions or are in a high-risk category).*
- *You exhibit flu-like symptoms.*
- *You have good reason to think you might be asymptomatic of a contagious illness (such as being in recent contact with someone who tested positive for a contagious illness such as COVID-19 or influenza).*
- *You care for the sick, homebound or infirm.*
- *You are pregnant, or caring for small children.*
- *You are 65 years of age or older (per the CDC's recommendation of high-risk individuals).*
- *You cannot attend Mass through no fault of your own (such as no Mass is offered, you are infirm, or you are prevented for some reason you cannot control).*
- *These categories will be reviewed and revised as needed.*

May our Lord bless you and may our Lady keep you in her tender care. Be sure of our prayers,

Fr. Arnsperger  
Fr. McCanless

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National Historic Site, Built 1905-1909  
97 Haywood Street