

In Today's Gospel

When Jesus and his apostles ascended the mountain, and Jesus was transfigured before them, Peter, James, and John got a glimpse of Jesus as he truly is. In today's gospel, Jesus appeared in all of his glory between Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets.

The Law and all of the prophecies of the Old Testament found their fulfillment in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When Peter saw Jesus with Moses and Elijah, he was content to remain there. He wanted to stay on the mountain because he did not know glory was in store for all of us.

When we come to Mass, we too ascend that mountain. At Mass, we enter into the presence of God in the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith. But we do not remain on that summit. Like Jesus' disciples, we must descend that summit and returned to the world, but we do not return empty-handed. We return with Christ, and we bring him into the world.

Stations of the Cross

It is an ancient tradition in the Church that we join with Christ's journey to Calvary during the Lent pilgrimage by participating in the Stations of the Cross. We continue that tradition in our parishes. The Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at St. Richard on Thursday mornings, following the 9 AM Mass. At St. Mary, we celebrate Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings. At 6:30, we will celebrate them in English, and at 7:30, we will celebrate them in Spanish. Please join us as we journey with Christ to the cross and our salvation.

Return to Mass

It was just about a year ago when we began to hear stories about an illness coming out of China. We still did not have a name for this illness that we now know as COVID-19. This disease has impacted every aspect of our lives. Many have lost loved ones or suffered from the effects of the disease themselves. Those who have been spared the illness themselves have been affected by the consequences of the disease. Many have lost their jobs. For months we were isolated; we put ourselves in quarantine. Even as things have begun to return to normal, we are still told to social distance and wear masks. We still cannot gather in large groups. One of the most devastating impacts of this disease is the isolation that it has created for all of us. Human beings are meant to be in communion with one another.

On March 13, 2020, Archbishop Vigneron issued a directive suspending public Masses in the Archdiocese of Detroit. That suspension remained in place until May 19th. Even with the resumption of public Mass, we are limited in the number of people that attend Mass, and many people are justly afraid to come to Mass. At that time Abp. Vigneron issued a universal dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This universal dispensation has remained in place since that time.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the suspension of public Masses, the Archbishop has determined it is time to allow that universal dispensation to expire. On March 13, 2021, the universal dispensation will expire; however, although there is no longer to be a universal dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, there are still particular dispensations from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for those who are sick, homebound, or infirmed, or those who care for the sick, homebound, or infirmed. In addition, anyone who is pregnant, anyone who is over the age of 65, or anyone who has a *significant* anxiety of becoming ill by attending Mass is exempt from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

Although we are beginning to move back to normal, there are still many who should not return to Mass yet. We will continue to livestream Mass for those who cannot join us in person, but for those who can, we look forward to seeing you. For additional information, go to www.stmarywayne.org.

View this full bulletin under the (*Bulletin*) tab on our webpage stmarywayne.org.