

In Today's Gospel

God did not create us to die. God created us to be with him for all eternity. Unfortunately, because sin entered the world, we turned our backs on God; we have rejected him. However, just because we have rejected God, that does not mean that he has rejected us. In today's gospel, we hear that verse so familiar from football games, John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Jesus did not come into the world to bring condemnation but rather salvation.

Regardless of the good or bad things that we have done in our lives, regardless of how many times we have turned our backs on God, Jesus Christ stretches out his arms and welcomes us back. Let us accept his invitation and let us live in his light and be with him for all eternity.

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to Mass! A little over a year ago, we began to hear stories about a strange virus coming out of China. By this time last year, we started to understand how serious this virus was. One year ago, this weekend, Archbishop Vigneron took the extraordinary step of suspending all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Detroit. I never thought I would live to see the day when we cannot all gather for Mass.

A little over two months after the suspension of public Mass, we were able to resume public gatherings, and we again began to hold Mass open to the public. But due to COVID-19, it was still not safe to gather in large numbers, and for some people, it was not safe to gather due to their health conditions. Because of this, Abp. Vigneron issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This weekend, this general dispensation comes to an end.

Beginning this weekend, all Catholics, who are able, are again required to attend Sunday Mass. The pandemic, however, is not over. There are still some who cannot or should not attend Mass. Although there is no longer a general dispensation covering everyone, there are still particular dispensations for people in special circumstances.

If you have a condition that would put your health at risk by attending Mass, or if you are sick and could put other people at risk, please remain at home. If you care for someone at risk, you are also dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. If you are over the age of 65, if you are pregnant, or if you have *significant* fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass, you are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass. For additional information, go to www.aod.org/comehometohope.

If you cannot attend Sunday Mass, we will be continuing to live stream Mass. To view our livestream, go to www.stmarywayne.org.

For those returning to Mass, please know that we are taking precautions to assure everyone's safety. We reduced the seating capacity at both St. Mary and St. Richard by either removing chairs or blocking off pews. In both churches, we have added overflow seating. At St. Richard, we have opened the curtain between the church and part of the social hall. At St. Mary, Mass will be livestreamed to the Activity Center if there is a need for additional seating beyond what is available in the church.

We are continuing to take safety precautions. Disposable paper, or cloth facemasks, are still required by everyone attending Mass. The chairs and pews are sanitized as appropriate, and sanitizer is available for everyone.

We are slowly returning to normal. I thank you for your support and your understanding during these difficult times. Let us continue our prayers, whether in church or at home, for an end to this pandemic.

Penance Service

Lent is a season of penance. During this season, we are all encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. In addition to our regularly scheduled confessions—Saturdays at 3 PM at St. Mary and *(Continued)*

Tuesdays at 9:45 AM at St. Richard—we are offering two penance services. On Tuesday, at 7 PM, we will have a penance service at St. Mary. Priests speaking both English and Spanish will be available at this service. On Wednesday, at 11 AM, there will be a penance service at St. Richard. If you cannot attend one of these services, find confessions available in the area by visiting www.confessionsfinder.org.

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