

## Lifting of the Dispensation from the Obligation of Mass, Effective 11 June 2021 May 21, 2021

Today, the Bishops across all five Indiana dioceses have issued the following statement on the lifting of the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass:

The celebration of the Eucharist at Mass is the source and summit of our life and mission as Catholics. As of March 2020, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Roman Catholics throughout the entire Province of Indianapolis, which comprises all five dioceses of Indiana, have been dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. However, with the decrease of cases in our state, the widespread availability of vaccines and following the guidance of public health officials, we are now able to safely accommodate more parishioners for Masses. Therefore, effective June 11, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is hereby lifted throughout the state of Indiana.

Except for the unique situations as described below, those who are otherwise healthy are obliged to return to Sunday Mass by the weekend of June 12-13, 2021:

- Those who are seriously ill, exhibit flu-like symptoms and/or may have a contagious disease (including quarantine due to exposure).
- Those who are unable to attend Mass through no fault of their own (e.g. transportation issue).
- Those who are homebound and/or incapacitated due to age, infirmity and/or medical restrictions.
- Those who have compromised health conditions and/or at high risk of contracting the virus.
- Those who are caretakers of person who are sick or of persons at high-risk of serious illness if they contract Covid virus.

If you have any questions about any specific needs, concerns or protocols, you are advised to contact your parish directly. Your pastor, who has the authority to dispense in individual cases, may be helpful in addressing individual fears and concerns.

The obligation to attend Mass is a joyful one, reflecting the very character of who we are as Catholics!

## Church of the Blessed Sacrament Updates

### WEEKEND MASS:

#### Until Further Notice

- Hand sanitizer will remain available for the faithful prior to the reception of Holy Communion and around the building for your use.
- Hand sanitizer will be used by Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion before and after distribution of Holy Communion.
- Staff & liturgical ministers will continue to have temperatures taken to ensure the safest environment.

- The church will remain partially roped off for those who desire to maintain 6' of social distance. *\*Roped sections create 6' of distance between pews. Not roped sections create 3' of distance between families.*
- Distribution of the Precious Blood from a common chalice remains suspended.
- Use of gift bearers remains suspended.
- Teams will continue to sanitize touch points.
- We ask that you remain aware of your surroundings when in the building. Though many restrictions are being lifted, we may have assessed this situation differently than our neighbor. Please know that the Bishop, diocese, pastor, parish leadership and medical experts in our community have tried to develop a way forward that mitigates the spread of COVID-19 and respects the common good of each one of us in our faith family.

### Effective May 29/30

- Plexiglass partition screens will no longer be used. Reception of Holy Communion on the tongue or hand is acceptable. According to the Catholic Medical Association, *"The General Instruction on the Roman Missal indicates that people may receive the Body of Christ either on the tongue or in the hand. Although virus may be present on someone's tongue, distribution on the tongue rarely if ever results in the priest's or the minister's touching the hand. For this reason, either method should be safe from transmitting the virus from one communicant to another."*

### Effective June 5/6

- Masks
  - Saturday 5:30 PM Mass Masks will remain required, but is open to all. The 65+/vulnerable is lifted.
  - 7:30 PM (Spanish/Santa Misa) Masks are Recommended/recomendado
  - 8:00 AM/11:00 AM Masks are recommended

### Effective June 11/12

- Congregational singing will resume.
- Missalettes will be available at the back of the church.
- Hymnals will be placed back in the pews.
- The collection basket will be passed with use of an usher.
- Procession of book of the Gospels will resume.
- Two lectors will be used.
- Holy water will be in the fonts. Water will be changed out very frequently. According to the Catholic Medical Association: *"Although it is theoretically possible to transmit respiratory viruses through the dipping of many people's fingers into the holy water font, dilution and the fact that the hand makes the sign of the cross afterwards, rather than going directly to the mouth, nose, or eyes makes it extremely unlikely."*
- Sign of Peace will take place without physical contact (ex: bow of the head or a wave to others).
- Doors 2 (near Hardebeck Hall) and 5 (chapel) will be open for your use.

## **DAILY MASS:**

- Livestreaming of Daily Mass will conclude on 6/5 (no Masses on 6/7-11 due to the priest convocation). Weekend Masses will continue to be livestreamed.
- Masks are recommended, but not required.

## **CONFESSIONS:**

**Effective June 11/12**

Reconciliation is offered at 7:45 AM before 8:30 AM daily Mass on First Saturdays, Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 PM (NEW TIME- beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>), and from 4:00-5:00 PM on Saturday evenings.

- Reconciliation will take place in the Chapel.
- Please enter through the main doors of the church and wait in the gathering space. There will be signs directing you.
- Masks are recommended.

## **ADORATION CHAPEL**

- Hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies remain available for your use.
- Masks are recommended.
- There are to be no more than 8 people in the Chapel at any given time.
  - You are always welcome to pray outside in your car at any time.
  - Priority is given to those adorers who have signed up for a given time.
- You are welcome to bring reading material with you, provided that you take it back with you when you leave.
- When you leave please:
  - Remove any reading material you brought with you.
- If you are not feeling well, please refrain from visiting the Adoration Chapel.
- If you would like to sign up for a Holy Hour, visit [west.lafayetteadoration.org](http://west.lafayetteadoration.org).
- If you have any questions, please contact Caleb Schultz at [cschultz@dol-in.org](mailto:cschultz@dol-in.org).