

Bishop Spalding has announced that as of Sunday March 28th, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will resume. His decision reflects the diminishing number of COVID-19 cases in the diocese and the increasing availability of vaccines that provide protection from the virus.

However, in announcing the resumption of our Mass obligation, Bishop Spalding emphasized that each of us must be prudent in safeguarding our health and the health of others. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply when there is a “grave cause” that prevents our attendance, and Bishop Spalding notes specifically that anyone who feels attendance at Sunday Mass will pose a potential threat to their health, the health of family members, or the health of others, is **not** obligated to attend.

The Bishop has also asked pastors to consider when and how to begin lifting the restrictions that have been in place in individual parishes since the beginning of the pandemic. In keeping with this request, Father Anthony wants to announce his plan for resuming our customary parish activities.

Federal and state guidance indicates that vaccines should be available to any adult who wishes to receive them by May 1st. If this proves to be correct, Father Anthony hopes to begin lifting our restrictions on June 1st to allow sufficient time for those receiving a two-dose vaccine to receive their second dose.

The lifting of restrictions will include reopening St. Margaret Mary for the 8:00am Sunday Mass, resuming our full daily Mass schedule, ending social distancing, and leaving the decision whether or not to wear a mask to the discretion of each individual parishioner.

Please be aware that we will continue to monitor trends in the pandemic as well as CDC guidance and make adjustments to these plans as necessary.

We are almost there. Let’s do our best to continue keeping each other safe.