

April 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

After consulting the Archdiocesan Priests Council, and after conferring with Bishops Conley and Hanefeldt, I am ending the general dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass, effective the weekend of Pentecost, May 22-23, 2021, in the Archdiocese of Omaha.

Happily, many parishes have been experiencing an increase in weekend Mass attendance recently. I think we can anticipate this trend to continue in the coming weeks, as vaccines are more widely available, and as other activities in the community resume.

Each pastor, in consultation with parish leaders, will continue to determine how to implement the guidance from the DHHS and local health departments. It will be important for pastors and parish staffs to communicate any local precautions or occupancy restrictions to their parishioners. Decisions about livestreaming of the liturgy will be made locally.

While the responsibility to participate in Sunday Mass rests with each of us, there are persons who may consider themselves excused under certain circumstances. Those who are prevented from attending due to advanced age, sickness, disability or some other serious reason are excused. For the foreseeable future, those who feel they are at heightened risk of contracting or communicating COVID-19 are excused.

The coming weeks provide an opportunity for us to respond again to the invitation of Jesus to come to Him. This is also an opportunity for each of us to share the invitation of Jesus with family members and neighbors. Look for more communication from your parish and from the archdiocese as we move to the feast of Pentecost with hope.

You are in my prayers for joy and peace in the risen Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend George J. Lucas
Archbishop of Omaha