



Decree

In the Name of the Lord. Amen.

Whereas on 3 April 2020 the Reverend Donald Oleksiak, diocesan administrator of the Diocese of Cleveland, *sede vacante*, granted a dispensation to the faithful of the Diocese of Cleveland from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until 3 May 2020 (protocol number 255/2020) due to the danger of contagion of the Covid-19 virus and later extended indefinitely; and

Whereas the danger of contagion has been recognized at this time by civil authorities and medical experts to have diminished within the State of Ohio; and

Whereas the Metropolitan Archbishop of Cincinnati together in meeting on 13 May 2021 with the suffragan bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Cincinnati stated agreement to rescind in their respective archdiocese and dioceses the dispensation from the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligations due to the danger posed by the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

I therefore with joy and gratitude to Almighty God hereby announce that the time has come for Catholics to return to the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

The dispensation, no longer necessary, is hereby rescinded and the faithful of the Diocese of Cleveland are advised that they are morally obligated to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (canons 898, 1247 CIC) beginning on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, 6 June 2021.

As has always been the case, if individuals are homebound, are frail due to illness or age or, in their well-formed consciences believe that going into public places – including Sunday worship at Mass – would place their health or the health of their loved ones in serious jeopardy, they are not bound by the obligation to attend Mass.

The faithful who are unable to attend Mass are nevertheless urged to make holy the Lord's Day. They are encouraged to pray, read the Scriptures, and take part in acts of charity, and if appropriate, view or listen to the celebration of the Eucharist made available by electronic technology. However, the viewing or listening of a broadcast Sunday Mass through various media, while spiritually beneficial, is not a substitute for attending Mass in person and does not fulfill the obligation. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to the pastor of the local parish.

Given at the Chancery on Friday, 18 May 2021.

V. Gardiner

Chancellor

+ Edward C. Malesic

The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL  
Bishop of Cleveland