

*Archbishop Vigneron is asking all parishes to read this short statement of his before each Mass on the weekend of March 13/14 as the obligation to attend Sunday Mass returns for most Catholics:*

“Sunday Mass is an important part of the life of every Catholic. We have a grave obligation to attend Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation unless we are prevented from doing so by a serious obstacle. During the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has created an environment of significant instability that required relaxing the dispensation from this serious obligation for all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit. For the past 10 months our parishes have learned how to safely and reverently celebrate Mass for anyone who was able to come. Now, as cases of COVID are dropping and the rate of vaccination is increasing, it is time for more of us to return to Mass. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass has returned for most Catholics this weekend. There are still particular dispensations for those who remain at a higher risk of infection or illness, so it may be a while for some of our brothers and sisters to return.

As we welcome more people back to our churches, we want to keep in mind the need for all of us to be patient with and supportive of each other. As an act of charity toward others, it is important that we continue to maintain social distancing and wear face-coverings at indoor events – including Mass. Exceptions are made for small children but for adults, face coverings are required. Pastors and parish staffs have been asked to help the faithful as they come back to Mass by reminding them of these directives, so that all will feel safe as they join us for Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist.

We know that this can be a challenge for some people, but your cooperation and support is a great spiritual and practical help, opening the doors for more people to safely and reverently participate at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. To those of you returning today: Welcome back and let us prepare ourselves for the Mass.”