

Diocese of Charlotte: General Executory Decree for returning to normal operations

Mass Obligation:

Beginning Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, the general dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation **will be narrowed to include those who are ill or vulnerable to the coronavirus. SEE DETAILS BELOW**

Please note:

- While the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services no longer recommend social distancing or face coverings for those who are fully vaccinated, **anyone who is vulnerable or not vaccinated is encouraged to continue wearing a face covering and to follow social distancing norms.**
- St. Therese currently has socially distanced seating in the narthex and outside on the benches. Chairs are also set up outside for the 10:00am Mass.
- The options of receiving Communion from the chalice and extending the Sign of Peace are to remain omitted until further notice.
- The faithful retain the right to receive Communion on the tongue or in the hand.

Who is still exempted from attending Mass?

People who are ill or vulnerable to infection are still encouraged to stay at home and attend Mass virtually, on TV or online. St. Therese will continue to livestream our Masses for those who are unable to attend in person.

If you live in the diocese (or are visiting within the diocese), you are not required to attend Mass on Sundays or holy days of obligation if:

- You are ill or your health would be significantly compromised if you were to contract a communicable illness (i.e., you have underlying conditions or are in a high-risk category).
- You exhibit flu-like symptoms.
- You have good reason to think you might be asymptomatic of a contagious illness (such as being in recent contact with someone who tested positive for a contagious illness such as COVID-19 or influenza).
- You care for the sick, homebound or infirm.
- You are pregnant, or caring for small children.
- You are 65 years of age or older (per the CDC's recommendation of high-risk individuals).
- You cannot attend Mass through no fault of your own (such as no Mass is offered, you are infirm, or you are prevented for some reason you cannot control).

If you have questions about whether these exemptions apply to you, or if you have significant anxiety about returning to Mass, please contact your pastor or your parish office. These categories will be reviewed and revised as needed.