



Diocese
of Toledo

Dispensation to be Lifted

The Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays
and other Holy Days of Obligation is lifted

effective June 5, 2021

The following are some of the notable liturgical guidelines. For a complete list, see the memo available at reconnecttoledo.org/liturgy.

- **Face Masks are not required**
The personal decision by some members of the clergy or the faithful to continue wearing masks/facial coverings should be respected out of charity
- **Seating will no longer be limited**
Rows will not be limited/closed. According to pastoral need, a designated socially distanced area may be provided for those who prefer such seating.
- **Holy water fonts will be filled**
Holy Water stoops and fonts without filters, or fresh water access, will continue to be cleaned on a regular basis.
- **The sign of peace may be resumed**
The Sign of Peace does not necessarily imply physical touch with others. Some members of the faithful may still be reluctant to extend/receive a physical Sign of Peace and their preference for no physical contact should be respected.
- **Holy Communion reception on the hand or tongue is the prerogative of the communicant**
- **Hymnals may be used**
Hymnals, missalettes, worship aids, etc. may once again be utilized.
- **Liturgical Ministers may be reinstated**
A full complement of liturgical ministers (altar servers, lectors, ushers, musicians, cantors, choirs) may be reinstated.

Pastors will continue to make every effort to keep the churches/chapels entrusted to their care are clean and safe.

Those who have a serious reason, the sick and infirmed as well as those with pre-existing conditions, those who are incapable of physically attending Mass, and those who care for someone who is immuno-compromised are exempt from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. They should, however, make every effort to watch a broadcast of Mass from their homes.

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

The Bishops of Ohio Announce the Lifting of the Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation

May 13, 2021

As we move beyond the worst of the coronavirus pandemic and access to the COVID-19 vaccine has become more widespread, the time has arrived for the good of all the faithful when the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is no longer necessary.

Together, the Bishops of Ohio have decided that the general obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (including the Saturday/Vigil Mass) is to be reinstated (CIC, can. 1247). This will take effect in each of the Dioceses of Ohio the weekend of June 5-6, 2021. As has always been the case, those who have a serious reason are exempt from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2181). This includes those who are ill, have *significant* health risk factors or care for someone who is immuno-compromised or ill, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety of contracting the coronavirus in a large group of persons. Nevertheless, these persons should observe the Lord's Day (CIC, can. 1247) and are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday, meditating on the Lord's passion, death and resurrection; an appropriate way to do this is through viewing a broadcast of the Sunday Mass. Masses that are broadcast through various media are not intended as a substitute nor do they fulfill the obligation for the persons who are able to gather for a Sunday celebration and other Holy Days of Obligation. Instead, they are intended for the sick, home-bound, the imprisoned, etc., who are unable to attend Mass in person. Kindly consult your pastor with any specific questions regarding the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

The book of Exodus reminds us to keep holy the Sabbath day (Exodus 20: 8-10). As Catholics, we are invited by God to gather together in community, and participate fully in the Sunday Eucharist, which is the "source and summit of the Christian life." "Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2182).

The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days is not something God asks of us out of his own necessity to be worshipped, but rather a gift to the faithful for their spiritual well-being, eternal salvation and formation in our relationship with God and one another. To that end, Saint John Vianney rightly asserts, "There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us." The Eucharist is the greatest gift Christ left to the Church—the gift of Himself. There is no substitute for Mass celebrated in person.

We are profoundly grateful to our pastors and all of the faithful for their flexibility, fidelity and great generosity in support of the mission of the Church throughout this unprecedented time. As we prepare for the reinstatement of the obligation to attend Mass, we are excited once again to gather together in person without restrictions in our parish churches, most fittingly on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. As we reflect on our Lord's goodness and mercy in the midst of the sacrifices made during the coronavirus pandemic, we ask Saint Joseph to intercede for us, that through his fatherly protection and care, we may experience a renewal of faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

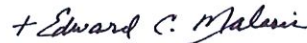
We welcome you back with great joy and eagerness!



The Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr
Archdiocese of Cincinnati



The Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan
Diocese of Columbus



The Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic
Diocese of Cleveland



The Most Rev. David J. Bonnar
Diocese of Youngstown



The Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Diocese of Toledo



The Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Monforton
Diocese of Steubenville



WHAT

Congress is trying to force Americans to pay for abortion.

HOW

The Hyde Amendment and similar laws have protected taxpayers from funding elective abortion for 45 years. Now, powerful members of Congress want to take away these laws that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century.

WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT THESE PROTECTIONS?

Billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion.

TAKE ACTION

Sign the petition to Congress!

PETITION

Save Hyde. Save lives.

Taxpayer dollars should NOT pay for abortion.

The majority of Americans agree with this - both Democrats and Republicans.

For 45 years, the Hyde amendment and similar laws have **protected** taxpayers from being forced to pay for elective abortion.

The Hyde amendment has been signed into law every year since 1976, whether the Congress and the White House were led by **Republicans or Democrats**.

The Hyde Amendment has saved nearly **2.5 million babies and mothers** in difficult circumstances from the tragedy of abortion.

An overwhelming majority of Americans, including **low-income women and women of color** who are most impacted by it, support the Hyde Amendment and laws that prevent government-funded abortion.

We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to ensure that the Hyde Amendment and all similar life-saving appropriations riders **remain in place** during the 117th Congress and beyond.

Do not force Americans to subsidize the taking of innocent life. Oppose any bill, including any appropriations bill, that expands taxpayer funding of abortion.

Add Your Name

*This petition will be sent to members of Congress and staff.
Together, we are powerful!*

