

September 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As you know, this Sunday (September 20) is the first Sunday since last March when Catholics in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee are required to attend Sunday Mass. (I once erroneously said that last weekend (September 13) the obligation was in effect. I apologize for the confusion.)

In a recent letter to Catholics of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Listecki reminded us that “Our Sunday worship is a joyful obligation. It is a witness to God as the priority in our lives.” The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the highest and greatest prayer that Jesus has given us. If we want to worship God and prioritize Him above all else, we need to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

Archbishop Listecki also explained that there are times when a person cannot fulfill the obligation without committing a sin. He wrote: “If a person is ill, especially during this pandemic, they should remain at home. Likewise, if a person is at risk because of age, underlying medical conditions or a compromised immune system, one would be excused from the obligation. If a person is caring for a sick person, even if they are not sick, they would be excused from the obligation out of charity.”

The priests of this deanery recently had a zoom meeting at which we shared our current Mass attendance in relation to what it was before the coronavirus. I am pleased to report that our percentage is one of the highest if not the highest in the deanery. But we could still do better, so please encourage your friends and family members to return to Mass!

On September 3, we held a Joint Parish Pastoral Council meeting at which we discussed protocol for returning to Mass. There was unanimous agreement that our current plan is working well. While some parishioners wear face coverings in light of Archdiocesan guidelines and the state mandate, others choose not to wear face coverings. Nobody expressed interest in policing the wearing of masks. By setting up additional chairs at both parishes and utilizing the gathering space at Holy Trinity, we have increased the amount of space available, which allows people to spread out.

At Mass we relive the events of our salvation, namely, Jesus’ death and resurrection. Perhaps above all else, the challenges of 2020 have taught us just how much we need to be saved. Let us praise God for his goodness in giving us a Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to us in the Eucharist at every Mass.

In Christ,

Father Strand