



On behalf of St. Albert the Great, I welcome you Back to Mass.

At New Year's celebrations in 2020, who would have imagined the year we were going to have? Who could have imagined that the Bishops of Ohio would have us close the doors to our Churches for 10 weeks? They did this, of course, for our safety. Even when we were permitted to come back on Pentecost last year, the dispensation from the Sunday Mass was still in effect.

This does not mean that the Mass was less important.

We believe that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ. The dispensation has been there for the last year in order to keep us safe and to make sure that we could be socially distanced on Sundays. Now the CDC has announced that vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask indoors. Gov. Dewine has lifted many restrictions, and the bishops of Ohio have now lifted the dispensation—meaning that the Sunday obligation is back in effect. Of course, *those who have a serious health reason are exempt from Mass. This includes illness, immune compromised, an increased risk of contracting covid19, or in contact with someone high risk of contracting covid.*

It seems tremendously appropriate that the first day we are fully back is on the **Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of our Lord— Corpus Christi**. Watching the Mass on TV or streaming the Mass online are good options when a person is sick or imprisoned. But its just not the same as being there.

On Corpus Christi, we remember that Jesus took bread, broke it and gave it to His disciples and said ***Do this in memory of me.*** We ***do this in memory of Jesus Christ*** every time we celebrate the Eucharist. It is especially important to do this on Sundays when we celebrate Christ's resurrection. It is also especially important to do this on Sundays -our Sabbath- when we stop our normal routines and devote a day to God.

When we celebrate the Mass, we remember that we have been given this gift, *not just to watch*, but to receive, to participate and to be strengthened by this awesome gift.

We also gather to be in community. As St. Augustine said, *we receive the Eucharist so that we can become what we eat*. In other words, we receive the Body of Christ so that we may **become** the Body of Christ.

If you haven't been back to Sunday Mass yet, St. Albert the Great welcomes you back.

**The chapel side of our worship space will continue to be an area that is socially distanced.
The ropes will remain up.**

On the church side of our worship space, the ropes are down and people have the option to sit where they like, and masks are optional.

I invite you to come back and find out what you have been missing.

Fr Chris Woelke

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