

Following much careful consideration, **the dispensation for Sunday Mass obligation has been lifted** and **beginning** the weekend of **Sept. 19 and 20**, all Catholics will once again gather as a community of faith on Sundays. The lifting of the dispensation was announced in a decree issued by Bishop David Ricken on Monday, Sept. 7.

[www.gbdioc.org/sundayobligationdecree](http://www.gbdioc.org/sundayobligationdecree)

With this news, please note there are still occasions when the obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply:

- **If individual Catholics struggle with serious health concerns** or are physically or morally prevented from worshipping at Mass for a grave reason

- **If individuals are frail due to illness or age or, in their well-formed consciences believe that going into public places** -including Sunday worship at Mass - **would place their health or the health of their loved ones in serious jeopardy**

- **If individuals are sick, or have been in contact with someone who has been sick**, the faithful who are unable to attend Mass are urged to make holy the Lord's Day and to pray, read the Scriptures, watch a broadcast or livestreamed Mass and take part in acts of charity. The diocese also issued guidelines for public Masses at [www.gbdioc.org/sundayobligationreinstatement](http://www.gbdioc.org/sundayobligationreinstatement).

These guidelines make clear that **face masks are still required**, and that, while **restrictions will be lifted on the percentage of people** at Mass, the standards of **social distancing will still be upheld**. The obligation to attend Mass for Catholics reflects our faith in Jesus Christ, the blessing of the Holy Eucharist and an acknowledgment of His great love for us.