

## Love One Another - Sunday: A Joyful Obligation

Our obligation to attend Sunday worship reflects the very character of who we are as Catholics. When we fail in our responsibility before God, we sin. The dispensation was made for the safety of all and to alleviate the burden of those conflicted by the obligation to attend Mass due to the coronavirus threat.

On September 14, 2020 the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation will expire, and it will be the responsibility of those who are capable and not prohibited by other circumstances to attend Sunday Mass. Those who deliberately fail to attend Sunday Mass commit a grave sin.

However, if a person is ill, at risk because of age, underlying medical conditions, compromised immune condition or caring for a sick person, one would be excused from the obligation. Also a person who is caring for a sick person, even though they are not sick, would be excused from the obligation out of charity. Fear of getting sick, in and of itself, does not excuse someone from the obligation. However, if the fear is generated because of these factors...then the fear would be sufficient to excuse from the obligation.

It is up to each individual to weigh their own circumstances through an examination of their conscience and determine, by use of their conscience, whether or not they are excused from the Sunday obligation.

Our Sunday worship is a joyful obligation. It is a witness to God as the priority in our lives. We place our trust in Him and His Church. We, together, recognize Him in the breaking of the bread as He offers himself to us in Communion so that, in His name, we might Love One Another.

Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI  
Archbishop of Milwaukee



*Excerpt from Archbishop Jerome ListECKI's column, "Love One Another, August 25, 2020." The full article is available at [www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/Blogs/Archbishop-ListECKI/2020/JEL-20200825.htm](http://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/Blogs/Archbishop-ListECKI/2020/JEL-20200825.htm)*