



Fr. Bill Peckman 11/22/2020

SS. Peter & Paul, Boonville

St. Joseph, Fayette

Bishop McKnight's Decree of Extension of Dispensation

1. All dispensations, obligations and guidance of the previous DECREE of 21 August 2020, originally effective until 27 November 2020, shall now be extended until further notice.
2. All the faithful of the Diocese of Jefferson City, and those who are present in the territory of the diocese, are therefore dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and holy days of obligation until further notice, **provided that for days of precept they do one of the following:**
 - ◇ *Prayerfully participate in the Sunday or holy day of obligation Mass live streamed from their parish church or chapel, the Cathedral, the Vatican, or of any Mass of the day celebrated in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.*
 - ◇ *Prayerfully read and meditate on the readings of the Mass for the Sunday or holy day of obligation, and recite the rosary or Divine Mercy chaplet.*
 - ◇ *The faithful still have the obligation to keep the Lord's Day holy and "to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2185)*

Father's Commentary: Please be aware that the dispensation from Mass attendance is NOT a dispensation from fulfilling your Sunday obligation to keep Holy the Sabbath. To not go to Mass nor do any of the three things mentioned as an alternative is to commit a mortal sin. Consequently, if you can go to other gatherings (sporting events, parties, etc), but choose not to go to Mass, you must ask yourself if you are using this dispensation to cover for spiritual sloth.

3. Parishes are highly encouraged to live stream Masses for Sundays and holy days of obligation to maintain a pastoral connection with their parishioners during and after the pandemic.

Father's commentary: Most every Mass is livestreamed on our parish Facebook page. Also in both parishes, we have spent resources to put live feeds into our parish halls so that we may extend seating capacity while adhering to the constraints of the pandemic. To be there is NOT the same as just watching it at home as we send a Eucharistic Minister to distribute the Eucharist. Yes, receiving the Eucharist is that important.

- Celebrations of penance services, as well as other seasonal services that entail extra gatherings of the faithful apart from Mass, are to be avoided. Instead, parish priests are asked to make themselves more available, even on a daily basis during the last week of Advent, to hear the confessions of the faithful.

Father's Commentary: I am available already before every Mass but the 10:30 Sunday morning Mass with scheduled confession times. Regularly scheduled times at SSPP are Wed-Fri 7:45-8:10, Saturday 8:30-8:50 AM, 4:30-5:15 PM. Regularly scheduled times at SJ are Tue 5:30-5:50 PM & Sunday 7:50-8:15 AM. During 1st and 3rd Fridays at SSPP I have confession for our students from 8:45-10:30 AM. I will add confession times on 1st and 3rd Fridays in Advent at 6:30-8:00 PM at SSPP. At SJ, on the 3rd Tuesday, I will extend confessions from 5:00 to 5:50 PM

- Whenever possible, the faithful should present themselves to their parish priest for the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick before they depart for the hospital. Because of pandemic protocols at hospitals throughout the diocese, priests may not have access to patients at the hospital.

Father's Commentary: Please do this. I cannot get into hospitals or nursing homes because of their restrictions. Please call me before you go in.

- The vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas] on 24 December 2020 may be celebrated as early as 3 pm to accommodate an ample Mass schedule for social distancing requirements. Whenever possible, every active priest of the diocese shall celebrate a vigil Mass of Christmas at 3 pm with the faithful so as to minimize large numbers congregating at the most popular Mass of the season. The allowance for a 3 pm vigil Mass of Christmas is only for this year and not to be presumed for the future.

Father's Commentary: Mass Schedule for Christmas 2020 SSPP: Dec 24th: 3PM, 5PM, 11PM; Dec 25th 10 AM. St Joseph: Dec 24th 7:30 PM & Dec 25th 8:00 AM. Signups for Mass ministries will be in the back of Church.

This decree is effective from 28 November 2020 and until further notice, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Father's Commentary: Most experts are saying that by the time the dispensations are lifted in this country, 20% of formerly active Catholics will not be returning. Not only am I and this parish going to do everything in our power to not accommodate this exodus, we are going to be working hard to have MORE people attending Mass than before Covid. The salvation of your soul and your children's soul matter that much to me and this parish. All Covid has exposed are the needs we have in this parish and community. Onward and upwards...there will be no willful downward spiral here.