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Media Release

For Immediate Release
Contact:
Amy Grau: 414-769-3461
graua@archmil.org.

**Catholic Returning to Mass and New Videos Series from
the Archdiocese of Milwaukee**

MILWAUKEE — The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for Catholics will expire on September 14, 2020. Therefore, Catholics are obliged to return to Sunday worship the following weekend. A dispensation remains for grave reasons, such as illness or the care of those who are sick (CCC #2181).

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and eventually suspended public Masses. Public Masses resumed on May 31 at limited capacity, as parishes looked at how reasonable and responsible ways to ensure safety and cleaning protocols could be implemented. Now, as parishes have successfully implemented protocols, the dispensation is expiring and parishes will be able to increase attendance limits.

Archbishop Listecki writes about the return to Sunday worship in a recent blog post. He reminds the faithful that the obligation is a joyful one. “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,” the Archbishop writes. He also says, “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. Therefore, we need to form our consciences so that we can be fully informed in making decisions about our actions. The Church in Her wisdom offers us guidelines to help in our formation.”

The guidelines the Church offers uphold both the sacredness of the Mass and our duty to worship God, as well as the sacredness of life. Under normal circumstances, Catholics are already dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for grave reasons, such as illness, care for sick or infants. Today, being in the high-risk category for contracting COVID-19 is considered a grave reason.

Archbishop Listecki reminds the faithful that fear is not a grave reason to miss Mass, and he urges everyone to carefully examine their consciences about a decision not to attend Mass. “Remember, a well-formed conscience is upright and truthful,” Archbishop Listecki writes.

To assist parishes with encouraging people to return to Mass in person, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has created a series of video clips of personal testimonies on the joys and necessities of attending Mass in person. [This first video](#), released today, is a compilation of all of the interviews. All of the videos are short and invitational and are meant to be shared on social media, parish websites, or in e-newsletters.

Please contact Amy Grau with questions regarding the return to Mass or the new video series.

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