



## Diocese of Austin

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## Office of the Bishop

February 11, 2024

TO: Parishioners of St. Mary Cathedral, Austin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

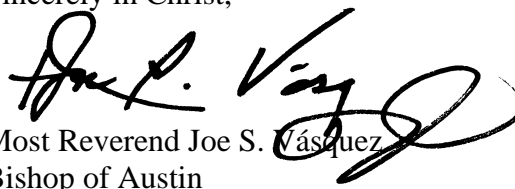
As many of you know, the law of the Church governing the celebration of Mass according to the Missal of 1962 has recently undergone revision. In July of 2021, Pope Francis promulgated *Traditionis custodes*, which called on diocesan bishops to evaluate the place of these celebrations within the life of the Local Church, and to designate the times and places for these celebrations. *Traditionis custodes* also provided that the places designated for these celebrations not be parish churches.

At the time *Traditionis* was issued, I granted a dispensation for St. Mary Cathedral parish so that celebrations according to the older missal could continue there as I discerned the best way to implement the guidance of the Holy Father in our diocese. As required by the rescript of the Holy Father issued in February of last year, I submitted the case of the celebrations according to the 1962 missal at the Cathedral parish to the Vatican Dicastery for Divine Worship to receive the guidance and direction of the Holy See. Having now received a reply, I wish to share with you some information about our path forward here at St. Mary Cathedral.

Following the guidance of the Holy See, the dispensation for celebrations according to the 1962 missal at the Cathedral will come to an end on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph. After that date, I have instructed the Cathedral clergy to begin offering the 7:30am and the 3:30pm Sunday Masses at the Cathedral according to the current edition of the Roman Missal. These Masses will continue to be celebrated in the Latin language and will be celebrated at the Cathedral's high altar, using the *ad orientem* orientation. These liturgies will also continue to be filled with the Church's beautiful treasury of Gregorian chant and sacred music. After March 19, however, these liturgies will use the readings, prayers, and ritual found in the current edition of the Roman Missal.

While this transition may be difficult for some, my hope is that you can open your hearts and move forward on this path with faith and trust. I believe we will experience a deepened unity with the whole Church and a greater awareness of the liturgical richness of the ordinary form of the Roman Liturgy. I assure you of my closeness and pastoral care as your bishop. Please pray for me, as I pray for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez  
Bishop of Austin