



MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

435 HIGH AVENUE
OSHKOSH, WI 54901
920 231-9782

October 6, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the wake of the rising cases of COVID throughout our Diocese, **Bishop Ricken has reinstated the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.** Bishop announced the dispensation in a decree on Monday, October 5, takes effect immediately, and will remain in effect until further notice.

We will continue to celebrate Mass for those who are able to attend and are willing to strictly follow the proper health protocols.

The dispensation from the Sunday obligation is necessary at this time to protect all in our community when COVID cases are skyrocketing. I am grateful to Bishop Ricken and his prayerful discernment and flexible leadership as he cares for the people of God in our Diocese. At the same time, I am sensitive to the spiritual challenges which come from a prolonged time away from the Mass.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:00 PM St. Peter

Sunday: 8:30 AM St. Peter

(Communion Service 9:30 - 9:45)

10:30 AM St. Mary

11:07 AM St. Peter

(w/ Fr. Zach Weber & Newman Center)

I urge you all to continue to wear masks, maintain social distancing, practice good hand hygiene, and comply with all health department recommendations. By working together, we can mitigate the spread of this virus and make it safe for everyone in our parish family - including the elderly, ill, and those at risk - to join us in encountering Jesus in the Eucharist and worshipping together at Mass.

We will continue to livestream our 8:30 AM Sunday Mass on our parish YouTube channel (bit.ly/MBSOshkoshLive). The 8:30 AM Mass is broadcast via FM radio the St. Peter parking lot. Tune your car radio to 87.9 FM to join us in prayer. Bishop Ricken's 10 AM Sunday Mass is broadcast via local CBS affiliate, WFRV Local 5 at 10 AM.

A Communion Service will continue to be offered from 9:30-9:45 AM on Sundays at the St. Peter site for those unable to attend Mass. Holy Communion outside of Mass is not a substitute for the participation in the Sacrifice of the Mass. However, the reception of Holy Communion outside of Mass brings grace and comfort to the faithful.

IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY, PLEASE STAY HOME IF:

- + You are showing symptoms of illness such as cough or fever - even if not COVID related.
- + You have tested positive for COVID-19.
- + You have been in contact with anyone diagnosed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days (even if you get a negative test).

To help slow the spread of the virus in Oshkosh, we are taking a few other precautions as well:

- Our parish office will be open only from 8 AM - 12 PM Monday - Friday effective immediately and until further notice.
- Our parish staff is reducing their in-office hours and working from home more hours each week. If you need to get in touch with a parish staff member, please email them directly or call the office to leave a message or get the best contact phone number.
- All parish meetings and gatherings will move to virtual whenever possible.
- We will continue to require masks, maintain social distancing at Masses (indicated by the ribbons on the pews), and thoroughly sanitize our spaces after each use.

As Catholics, doing our part involves more than just wearing masks, distancing, and following health recommendations. Doing our part as Catholics means also uniting ourselves in prayer for the sick, our nation, and the world. It also being the hands and feet of Jesus. Please join me in daily prayers for the end of the pandemic and all those impacted by its effects. Check in on your family, friends, and neighbors. Continue to be creative in the ways that you encourage and support one another in our common mission to *Encounter Jesus in the Eucharist* so that we may *Live Out the Joy of the Gospel*, and *Bring Others to Christ*.

Peace,



Fr. Jerry

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN ANXIETY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Loving God,

Today we come to you full of anxiety and stress about what has happened and what may happen. Shower us with the peace Jesus promised to his disciples, and make us steady pillars for those around us.

In this time of uncertainty and pandemic, wake us up to the reminder that we are never alone. Strengthen our resolve to lean on your word and be guided by your enduring love and Spirit.

As we are asked to keep our distance from others, help us to find ways to reach out to those who need our support. We pray especially for those who are ill, for those whose incomes and livelihoods are threatened. For the children, who will miss meals due to school closures. For those already isolated, lonely and scared.

Loving God, give them your peace, and through our hands, ensure they have what they need.

We must anchor our hearts in the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers, for the love of God and for the love of our neighbors.

Loving God, draw us closer to one another, to care and support each other through this journey before us. Help us to rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives. Remind us each time we wash our hands that in our baptism, you called us to let go of our fears and live in joy, peace, and hope.

We pray this in your name. Amen.

Adapted from excerpts in the Catholic Health Association newsletter