

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 21, I received an email from the Archdiocese that stated the following regarding the dispensation to miss Mass:

While commending our pastors and pastoral life coordinators who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, given the continued increase of Covid-19 cases in our state, the Indiana bishops hereby extend the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation beyond 1 November 2020 until further notice. The Indiana bishops will continue to monitor the situation to determine when it might be advisable to modify or lift the dispensation.

With that news, it does change our plans moving forward. Originally, we were making our plans based on the large increase in numbers on November 1. Now, we will still hold the same plans for overflow and potential Eucharistic ministers, but on an as-needed basis. In other words, we will watch the numbers of those returning to Mass and make the appropriate accommodations as we move forward.

I highly encourage all of our parishioners to make prudent decisions regarding returning to Mass. For those who feel compelled to return, please consider attending the 6pm at St. Patrick or the 11am at St. Margaret Mary to promote social distancing. And if you feel at all unwell, please stay home and watch the Mass online.

For those attending Mass, the mask requirement is still in effect, as is social distancing at Mass. We will continue following the recommendation from the local health department as we make our decisions moving forward.

Thank you again for your patience and flexibility. We will try our best to keep you informed. And please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Know of my continued prayers, and God bless!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Daniel Bedel".

Fr. Dan Bedel