

September 28, 2020 from Archbishop Gregory John Hartmayer:

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for persons with health reasons or concerns remains in effect for all in the Archdiocese until further notice. **Because of this, those wishing to participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion can do so by attending any Mass any day of the week.** The obligation to keep a holy Sabbath remains, and Catholics are reminded that, even while homebound, they are to devote themselves to, among other practices, personal prayer, meditation on the readings from the Sunday Mass and the making of a spiritual Communion. While those who are at high risk or who care for someone at risk can and should stay home and participate in an online or televised liturgy, Archbishop Hartmayer encourages those who are healthy and are not burdened with the fear of being exposed to the virus to begin returning to Mass and receive the grace of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. **Watching the celebration of the Mass on the computer or TV cannot become a substitute for receiving the sacraments.**

Persons are encouraged to take their temperature before leaving home and to avoid coming to church if the temperature is 99.6 or greater. Taking of temperature at church entrances is allowed, according to a parish's published or announced procedure (currently, we do not do this at St. Oliver's). Anyone who is not feeling well should remain at home, out of concern for others. Those who are at risk or who care for those at risk and those who are concerned that they or their family might become sick should stay at home and view broadcast or online Masses.