

**MARCH
2021**

NEWS FROM AROUND
THE MONROE VICARIATE

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FR. MICHAEL A. WORONIEWICZ
PASTOR, DIVINE GRACE
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Come Home to Hope

Letter from Archbishop Vigneron to the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit that general dispensation will end on March 13, 2021

Dated February 9, 2021 - Reprinted



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Sacred Liturgy, and particularly the Holy Eucharist, is the very heart and foundation of our Catholic faith. It is during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that the saving death and resurrection of Jesus is made present to us, our covenant with Our Lord is renewed, and God, in the person of Jesus Christ, comes to us and makes himself truly present for us in his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is an irreplaceable gift; a foretaste of Heaven itself.

When the pandemic first began, in the midst of tremendous uncertainty, it was necessary to suspend all public liturgies. During this time, we assessed the situation in light of public health information and explored a safe way to bring Christ to the people, both through the Word of God and the Sacraments. Given the gravity of the Sunday obligation to attend Mass, this decision was not undertaken lightly. Then, we cautiously returned to Mass with prudent restrictions, such as capacity limits and rigorous cleaning protocols, to allow for the resumption of essential public worship without undue risk of accelerating the pandemic. During these difficult months of pandemic, our pastors, parishes, and all the faithful have adapted in order to ensure the health and well-being of everyone in our local communities. I want to offer my sincere gratitude for the efforts that have been undertaken to implement and maintain the first-rate precautionary measures that have kept our parishes and schools safe.

As part of our adaptations, many of our parishes have broadcast Masses over the internet during these last several months. While this has been a means to help Catholics nourish their souls when they could not be present for Mass, we must remember that it cannot become the norm. God did not come to us virtually. He came to us — and *continues* to come to us — in the flesh. As Catholics, unmediated contact with the Real Presence of the flesh and blood of Our Lord in offering this sacrifice to the Father is irreplaceable and essential. We recall Christ's own words when he foretold the gift of the Holy Eucharist:

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." (John 6: 54-56)

In recognition of the essential and central nature of the Eucharist Sacrifice in our lives as Catholics, and in acknowledgement of my duty as shepherd to care for the souls of everyone within our diocese, it is important that I lead more of us back to Mass, when and where possible. **That is why the general dispensation from the Sunday obligation will be extended only for one month, until March 13.** With its expiration, I intend to grant some particular dispensations to those in need. It is time for us to welcome back more of the faithful with a renewed amazement that we have a God who is so close to us and who

has such a deep love for us that he comes to us in flesh and blood. Active participation in Mass is an occasion for all of us to avail ourselves of the immeasurable spiritual graces Christ desires for his faithful through his Paschal Sacrifice.

We know that there remains the concern for spread of infection, particularly among the winter months when we live indoors to a greater degree. All of us must remain vigilant to limit its spread, particularly among those most vulnerable. With this in mind, I am granting particular dispensations from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation for people in certain circumstances, including those who are ill and those who care for anyone who is at-risk of serious complications from COVID-19. I am making a particular request that those who are ill or think they might be ill to refrain from this in-person participation in the liturgy as an act of justice and charity to others. Those who would experience significant anxiety or fear of getting sick from being in a public setting are similarly dispensed from their obligation to attend. **(See info box on page 2).** In allowing the general dispensation to expire, we welcome back to Mass all Catholics who have already been engaged in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2021 ISSUE IS MONDAY, MARCH 29TH
Please email information to: [Crysti Esper at communications@monroevicariate.com](mailto:Crysti.Esper@monroevicariate.com). Thank you!



ARCHBISHOP VIGNERON'S LETTER CONTINUED

other activities that would present a similar or greater risk of exposure, such as eating out at restaurants, traveling, partaking in non-essential shopping, and widening one's circle of contacts. These individuals should also prepare to return to Mass in recognition of its preeminence in our lives as Catholics.

The health and safety of our communities is and always will be paramount as we continue to closely monitor local conditions. For that reason, I am continuing the liturgical directive that all the faithful present at Mass, with the exception of small children, wear a mask or face-covering. If this proves impossible for you or a family member, please speak with your priest. Additionally, our churches will remain limited to no more than 50 percent of available capacity for the near future, and many other existing protocols will remain in place. The Archdiocese is committed to assisting pastors to adjust Mass schedules or offer additional public Masses, insofar as possible, to make it easier for as many of the faithful as possible to attend Mass while still practicing social distancing during the approaching Lent and Easter seasons.

At the beginning of this pandemic, I entrusted the Archdiocese of Detroit to Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness for those who suffer illness, asking that, through her intercession, God would grant healing and protection to the people of southeast Michigan and beyond. I ask you, brothers and sisters, to join me in offering prayers of thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother for her intercession so far and to pray for her continued accompaniment. With her help, let us persevere in hope to face the challenges of this virus and continue to give witness to our confidence in the good news of the Lord's victory over suffering and death.

*With assurances of my prayers for you, I remain,
Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit*

PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES FOR DISPENSATION

While the general dispensation is removed, there are specific instances where the dispensation will continue, as well as those circumstances where there is no obligation in the first place. One does not have an obligation to attend Mass on Sunday in the following circumstances:

1. You are ill or your health condition would be significantly compromised if you were to contract a communicable illness (i.e., you have underlying conditions or are in a high-risk category). *Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.*
2. You exhibit flu-like symptoms. *Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.*
3. You have good reason to think you might be asymptomatic of a contagious illness (e.g., you were in recent contact with someone who tested positive for a contagious illness such as COVID or influenza). *Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.*
4. You care for the sick, homebound, or infirmed.
5. You are pregnant.
6. Those 65 years of age or older (per the CDC's recommendation of high-risk individuals).
7. You cannot attend Mass *through no fault of your own* (e.g., no Mass is offered, you are infirmed, or, while wanting to go, you are prevented for some reason you cannot control (e.g., your ride did not show up, the church was at capacity).
8. If you have *significant* fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass.

For questions about the application of any of these, please contact your pastor. These categories will be reviewed in due course and revised as needed. Those within categories #1-8 above must still observe the Lord's Day and are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday, meditating on the Lord's passion, death and resurrection; an excellent way to do this is through participating in a broadcast of the Sunday Mass.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

**Pre-Marriage Workshop
Saturday, May 8, 2021
11 AM - 5:00 PM**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Temperance is hosting a Pre-Marriage Workshop for couples actively preparing for their Catholic wedding. This workshop is approved by the Archdiocese of Detroit, and includes Natural Family Planning.

The \$50.00 per couple fee includes materials, lunch & snacks. Casual dress. Masks, social distancing, and registration is required. **Space is limited. Registration form can be requested by email: olmc@bex.net**



Knights in Action | Monroe Council #1266

Hopefully by reading our monthly articles you have been made aware of the Monroe Councils Charitable deeds.

Our services are a minute part of the Knights National Charitable programs:

Our Supreme Knight released in his 2020 Annual Report that \$187 million has been donated to charitable causes. In volunteer time the Knights served more than 77 million hours in service. Each service hour has been valued by independent research company at \$27.20. Bringing the value of the volunteer work hours in at more than \$2 billion dollars. This brings the total value of our charitable contributions over this past year to more than \$ 2.2 Billion dollars.

Here are a few of the Charitable Programs:

- Coats For Kids = 2,144 councils worked to provide more than 124,000 coats.

- 8,100 Wheel Chairs were provide to needy.
- 2.3 Million pounds of Food For Families
- 88,000 Knights spent 876,000 service hours serving the impaired in Special Olympics.
- \$3,023,900 donated to "RSVP" assisting over 6,300 men and women coveting Catholic Vocations.
- \$ 4.8 million donated to Disaster Relief.

This is just a very small segment of the Charitable deeds of the Knights. To see the complete report please check online at: "Charity by the numbers 2020 Annual Report of the Supreme Knights"

The Knights Of Columbus is the worlds largest Catholic Fraternal Service Organization, Charity is our foremost Principle. To learn more about us at <http://www.kofcmonroe1266.com>

Peace & Justice

Disability Awareness: Grief and People with Intellectual Disabilities

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) points out that “feelings are not measured by IQ. Even those who cannot identify or express feelings still experience the full range of human emotions.” People with intellectual disabilities have historically been sheltered from sensitive life issues due to the perception that they were unable to understand the issues. Research has shown that shielding people with intellectual disabilities from end-of-life experiences causes additional anguish. People with intellectual disabilities should be included in the mourning process. It is also noteworthy that people with intellectual disabilities can provide comfort for others with whom they share their sorrow.

NCPD suggests the following:

- Encourage people with intellectual disabilities to pray, visit the sick and dying, view the body, and attend the funeral.
- Help people with intellectual disabilities express their feelings of grief through viewing photos and / or creating scrapbooks.
- Watch for troublesome grieving, which can be expressed as physical ailments, dreams, withdrawal, and changes in eating habits.
- Use anniversaries to commemorate births and deaths.
- Visit the cemetery on holidays or special occasions.
- Contact community resources to help with the grieving process, if needed.

If your parish provides specific resources for people with disabilities, please contact Valerie Tyldesley, valerie.tyldesley@gmail.com, so the information can be published in the Monroe Vicariate Bulletin.

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Divine Grace Men's Club

St. Patrick School
2970 W Labo Rd, Carleton
"Fish Frydays"

**Through March 26
4:00-6:30 PM**

- Drive-Thru ONLY
- **\$13 Each or 2 for \$25**
- Fried Perch or Cod Dinners
- Dinners include: Jumbo Shrimp, Potatoes, Green Beans, Mac and Cheese, Cole Slaw

Visit
www.divinegraceparish.com

St. Gabriel Church

8295 Van Aiken St., Ida

**Every Friday during Lent
Through April 2
Dine In OR Carry Out
3:00 PM (until SOLD OUT)**

- Drive thru only
- **\$10.00 small combo dinner
\$15.00 large combo dinner
\$20.00 (only fish, no sides)**
- No substitutes
- All plates include: fish/shrimp, scalloped potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, and dessert





The **Spirituality Centers of the IHM Sisters** welcome all seekers and their quest for God. Visit our Monroe spirituality centers at River House and at the IHM Motherhouse for retreats, programs, spiritual direction – or to simply have a respite in places of quiet beauty to **pray, rest and renew.**

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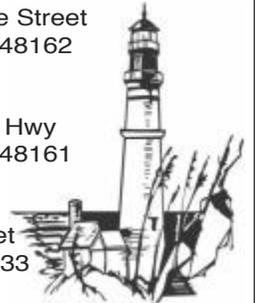
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