



## **Indiana Bishops extend Mass-obligation dispensation**

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA, October 22, 2020 – Bishop Joseph M. Siegel has issued the following statement regarding the dispensation from the Sunday and holy day Mass obligations in the Diocese of Evansville:

“While commending our pastors and pastoral life coordinator, who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, the Indiana bishops have decided to extend the dispensation from the obligation of Sunday and holy day Mass attendance obligation beyond 1 November 2020 until further notice due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in our state. The Indiana bishops will continue to monitor the situation to determine when it might be advisable to modify or lift the dispensation.

“The dispensation is intended to help protect the health and well-being of:

- those 65 and older and those of any age with underlying health conditions;
- those who are caring for or living with these individuals;
- those who have serious concerns about the health risks of coming to church for the celebration of the Eucharist.

“These persons are urged to continue to participate in the Sunday liturgy via live stream or other media.

“While this dispensation applies to all Catholics, parishioners not under these risk factors are encouraged to attend Mass, following the health protocols put in place by their respective parishes – especially wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing when coming to church. It is also strongly recommended to receive Holy Communion in the hand.

“Let us continue to pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 health crisis, for health professionals caring for the sick, and for researchers working to develop treatments and a vaccine.”

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