



THIS WEEK AT THE MADELEINE

Furthering the Reign of God, Where All Are Welcome • July 17-18, 2021

**Feast of St. Mary Magdalene: Thursday, May 22.
Mass 8:00 am with reception after. More info inside.**

ARCHBISHOP RESCINDS “DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS”

Effective Friday, July 16, 2021 Archbishop Sample has rescinded the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Canon Law still allows those who are vulnerable, sick, or who have other grave reasons, to miss Holy Mass if necessary. Those unable to attend the Sunday Eucharist for such reasons



**ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND IN
OREGON**

are asked to honor the Lord in another way that day by watching a livestreamed Mass, praying the rosary, reading sacred Scripture, or otherwise setting aside time to be with the Lord.

You can read Archbishop Sample’s entire Pastoral Message on pages 5-6 in this week’s bulletin.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE SUNDAY READINGS call to mind Pope Francis’ strong advice that priests and leaders of the church must be shepherds who smell like sheep. The Scriptures remind us that the shepherd shall bring peace and justice to his people, shall reconcile differences, unite all peoples and teach, minister and serve God’s people with compassion that mirrors God’s own.

PRAY FOR OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Larry Mason—*Funeral Mass July 18, 2:00 pm*

Bruce Dufour

Margaret Sullivan

Mike Wilson

Joan Ryan

Tadeusz Jablonski

Peggy Barnett

PRAYER REQUESTS

For those who are ill, or in need of our prayers

Barbara Allen

Charlie Phipps

Don Kullberg

Cheryl Hulscher

Hilda Glasgow

Sylvia Manzo

WORSHIP & PRAYER

07/20, Tues. Zora Bencich †

07/21, Weds. Bruce Dufour †

07/22, Thurs. Peggy Barnett †

07/23, Fri. Joe Chalupsky †

07/24, Sat. Corinne and Kitt Jordan

07/25, Sun. 8:00 am . . . The Madeleine Community
10:00 am Lee Toth †

THE HAITIAN PROJECT GARAGE SALE IS BACK! JULY 30–AUGUST 1

Scour your garage, closets and attic! After a year’s absence, The Haitian Project Garage Sale at The Madeleine is back!

The Garage Sale benefits the Louverture Cleary School in Haiti, which offers a Catholic education to children who otherwise would not be able to afford an education.

Sale dates are July 30–August 1... see hours detailed below. You can drop



off donations at the Parish Hall beginning Monday, 9 am. Complete details below.

The sale always needs volunteers, so if you want to help, contact Steve Holmes, steveholmes@shtrucking.com or 503-706-7937. More information,

including detailed dates and hours are posted in the bulletin and on our website www.themadeleine.edu/haitian

Special note from Steve Holmes:

We will have the trucks loaded up ready to deliver to the parish hall on Monday July 19 when we can start moving into the Parish Hall.

We hope to get all the merchandise to the Parish Hall that day. **We will need lots of help on those 2 days!!**

If you have access to a pickup and can help on Monday that will be great.

Haitian Project Garage sale important dates:

► **July 19–29:** Daily set up, and pricing, 9 am–3 pm (20-40 volunteers). On Sundays we will begin at 9:30 after Mass.

► **July 30–August 1, SALE DAYS:** Friday and Saturday 9 am–3 pm, Sunday

9 am–1 pm. 50% off day, \$5 per bag of clothing (Many volunteers needed).

► **August 1:** Sale tear down begins at 1:00 pm (40 volunteers).

► **Monday, August 2:** 9 am–12 pm Load trucks @ The Madeleine (10 volunteers).

Calendar This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 18

8:00 am: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON ONLY**

10:00 am: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON**  **LIVESTREAM**

2:00 pm: Funeral Mass for Larry Mason—Church

MONDAY, JULY 19

▶ Haitian Project Garage Sale Set-up

TUESDAY, JULY 20

▶ Haitian Project Garage Sale Set-up

8:00 am: Mass—Church

9:00 am: Adoration—Church

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

▶ Haitian Project Garage Sale Set-up

8:00 am: Mass—Church

7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal—Church

THURSDAY, JULY 22

▶ Haitian Project Garage Sale Set-up

▶ Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene

8:00 am: Mass—Church

Refreshments to follow in the Courtyard

FRIDAY, JULY 23

▶ Haitian Project Garage Sale Set-up

8:00 am: Mass—Church

8:30 am: Shelter Now Retreat—St. Catherine Room

SATURDAY, JULY 24

▶ Haitian Project Garage Sale Set-up

5:00 pm: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON ONLY**

SUNDAY, JULY 25

▶ Haitian Project Garage Sale Set-up


8:00 am: Mass—Church


 **IN-PERSON ONLY**

10:00 am: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON**  **LIVESTREAM**

ACCESSING THE MADELEINE IN TIME OF COVID-19

▶  **IN-PERSON**—Pre-registration is no longer required; no limits on attendance. Masks optional.

▶  **LIVESTREAM**—on our YouTube channel every Sunday at 10:00 am, School Masses, and special events:

www.youtube.com/themadeleineparish

▶ **Parish Emails:** To sign up, visit

PARISH LIFE

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

This fall we are offering a series of opportunities to explore Catholicism. These guided discussions are intended for those who are curious about the Catholic faith and/or for those thinking about becoming Catholic. We will be looking at the treasures and gifts of our Catholic faith through prayer, discussion, and response to questions. Some of the topics we will explore are the person and teaching of Jesus, the Mass, how Catholics read the Bible, Catholic Social Teaching, Mary, and the Saints.

Time and Place: Sundays in September and October (with our first gathering on Sept. 19) at 9 am in the Old Church. While there is no obligation beyond these September/October discussions, this serves as a foundation for those wishing to continue the process toward becoming Catholic. Bring an open heart and your questions.

Want to begin now? We are happy to have you join us for our weekend Masses during the summer months (5:00 pm on Saturday, 8:00 am or 10:00 am on Sunday).

Will you join us? Contact Christi Bohmbach at rcia@themadeleine.edu



MADELEINE BOOK CLUB

Summer is the perfect time to read a good book! Would you enjoy opportunities to meet with others to share in genial discussion/debate over the contents of some very excellent books? If so, you are most cordially invited to join our group!

To find out what is on our agenda for the coming season and/or to be added to our email list, please contact our MBC coordinator: Gretchen Stevenson, gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com or 503-312-6834.

4 STAGES OF MARRIAGE

The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery please contact Retrouvaille. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on August 6-8, please call 1-503-225-9191 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org

ADVERTISE IN THE PARISH BULLETIN

It's one of the best kept secrets and biggest bargains in the area...Madeleine Parish Bulletin Advertising. The back page of your weekly bulletin is a great place to get the word out to our parish community of your goods or services. This year has been tough on some of our local businesses, so we unexpectedly have some advertising spots available.

▶ **Affordable**—Starting at just \$110 for the 6 months July through December (\$220 per calendar year). We usually bill 12 months January to December, but will gladly accept your ad July through December this year.

▶ **Versatile**—Many sizes available...based on our "single" size module, you can stack it two or three high, stretch it two or three wide...whatever size you need to get your brand's message across to our readers.

▶ **Relatable**—Members of The Madeleine community tend to be very local to their fellow parishioners. By advertising in the bulletin, you're demonstrating that you're an integral part of our parish community.

▶ **Good Company**—On the back of our bulletin are some of the stalwart companies in our parish and community. Several familiar names have been with us for decades... isn't it time you joined them?

To advertise, contact Rich Hammons, Director of Communications, at bulletin@themadeleine.edu

MILESTONES

Marriage

Congratulations to **Ashley Gjerswald** and **Alex Hows** who were joined in the joy and commitment of sacramental marriage this weekend at The Madeleine.

“ I thank all those who have been close to me with prayer and affection during my hospital stay. Let us not forget to pray for the sick and for those who assist them.. ”

—Pope Francis via Twitter
@pontifex

THE FEAST OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Thursday, July 22 • Mass at 8:00 am

On Thursday, July 22, we will celebrate the Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene - our Patron Saint at The Madeleine. While this is an important day for our Parish, because it falls in the middle of summer vacation, it is sometimes overlooked.

Among other things, St. Mary Magdalene is the Patron Saint of converts. Now, those of you who are or know converts to the Catholic faith (my husband Michael converted from Southern Baptist) understand that many converts are far more “Catholic” than most of us “Cradle Catholics”—fiercely loyal to the tenets of the faith and as Disciples of Christ. Knowing that, it is easy to understand the loyalty that St. Mary Magdalene showed to Jesus after her conversion to Christianity. I should mention that St. Mary Magdalene is also the Patron Saint of Women, contemplative life and even hairstylists (although I’m not really sure about the last one). Be that as it may, Mary Magdalene was known as a grave sinner, who was forgiven by Jesus, was converted to Christianity, and became an ardent follower of Christ. She is, however, probably most famous for being an eyewitness to Jesus’s death on the cross. Even when the disciples were gone, she stayed at the foot of the cross and wept. Her reward—she was the first to see Jesus after His Resurrection. Because of this, the Church has always honored Mary Magdalene. She was called a “witness of Divine Mercy” by St. Gregory the Great and an “Apostle of the Apostles” by St. Thomas Aquinas. Pope Francis recently recognized her as a model of women’s role in the Church, and elevated her from Memorial status to the rank of a Feast. In the eyes of the Church, this is a big deal!

Although there is not a great deal of music written about Mary Magdalene, one of my favorites is the famous Gospel song, “In the Garden.” Written by C. Austin Miles in 1912, this song was recorded by everyone from Roy Rogers and Dale Evans to Perry Como, Rosemary



Music Notes

Clooney and Elvis Presley. By his own account, Miles opened his Bible to the Gospel of John:20 and became lost in the story of Mary Magdalene when Jesus appeared to her in the garden after the

Resurrection. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Miles wrote the lyrics to the song—writing the tune later that day. Amazingly, the hymn has remained intact with both the original words and melody, as it was in 1912.

As a Parish, we are also singing the Mass of St. Mary Magdalene. Filled with tuneful melodies, it is composed by the celebrated Catholic contemporary composer, Sarah Hart. Mary Magdalene is even revered in the secular world. Jazz composer Chris Brubeck recently wrote the oratorio “Mary Magdalene and the Garden Dweller.” With a libretto by Fr. Michael Sherwin, it features choir, jazz combo and orchestra and was premiered on February 15, 2020 at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. The piece was commissioned by the International Festival of Sacred Music and dedicated to the memory of his mom and dad—Iola and jazz legend Dave Brubeck (a “convert,” by the way).

Perhaps it is the words of Pope Benedict XVI that best sums up to me the importance of Mary Magdalene in our lives. He said; “*The story of Mary of Magdala reminds us all of a fundamental truth. A disciple of Christ is one who, in the experience of human weakness, has had the humility to ask for his help has been healed by him and has set out following closely after him, becoming a witness of the power of his merciful love that is stronger than sin and death.*” It is no wonder that The Madeleine is such a special place!

Please help us celebrate the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene by attending the 8:00 am Mass on Thursday, July 22. I hear rumors there may also be coffee and doughnuts after Mass!

—Maria Manzo

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Masses:

Tuesday–Friday 8:00 am
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Notes:

- ▶ Pre-registration for in-person Mass attendance no longer required
- ▶ Livestream 10:00 am Sunday at youtube.com/themadeleineparish

PenanceBy appointment; call Parish Office

PARISH OFFICE

Hours Monday–Friday, 10:00 am–3:00 pm

Phone: 503-281-5777 **Fax:** 503-281-0673

School Office. 503-288-9197

PARISH STAFF

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fathermike@themadeleine.edu ext. 111

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Rich Hammons—Director of Communications
rhammons@themadeleine.edu ext. 129

SACRAMENTS

Marriages, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick—Fr. Mike ext. 111

Infant Baptism—Darlene Maurer ext. 125

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist—Trisha Mumm ext. 127

RCIA—Christi Bohmbach, rcia@themadeleine.edu

Confirmation—Fr. Mike ext. 111

COUNCILS & CONTACTS

Pastoral Council—Ron Oliver 503-281-9070

Finance Council—Jim Jones. 503-284-3301

Buildings & Grounds—Erin Couch . . 503-281-9575

School Advisory—Eric Robinson 971-227-3772

Facility Requests—themadeleine.edu/facilities

Maintenance Requests—John Garrow
jgarrow@themadeleine.edu ext. 118

Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Tuesday
Email to bulletin@themadeleine.edu



In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” Vincent de Paul, a great man of action was also a contemplative. His contemplation of God’s love overflowed into practical love for the poor. Please say a special prayer for the poor and forgotten, as you make a contribution for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

—Mary Clare O’Brien, 503-309-7639

RECYCLING PROGRAMS EXPANDED AT THE MADELEINE

Marked collection bins in the breezeway facing 23rd Ave.

The Madeleine's Laudato Si' Circle and Care for Creation Ministry have joined with USA-based recycler, Terracycle, to offer our parish, school, and community opportunities to responsibly recycle specific items (primarily plastics) not generally handled at curbside. Terracycle has added more manufacturers to its program, and in turn, we have expanded our recycling offerings. Here is a current listing of what we are collecting. Please keep this in mind:

- ▶ Do not include garbage or items not specifically mentioned in the descriptions.
- ▶ Empty containers of contents. No need to wash first; ensure packaging is dry.



STYROFOAM AND POLYSTYRENE

We have identified a local recycler of Styrofoam and Polystyrene (anything marked #6 like block packaging, meat trays, and to-go containers).



LATE JULY® SNACKS

All Late July® snack packaging as seen in these examples. Limited to Late July brand only.



GILLETTE® AND VENUS RAZORS AND RAZOR BLADES

All brands of blades and razors (systems and disposable units, and replaceable-blade cartridge units), rigid plastic packaging, and flexible plastic bag packaging.



BIC WRITING INSTRUMENTS AND PACKAGING

All brands of empty writing instruments, glue sticks, water-color dispensers, highlighters, paint sets, and flexible packaging.



RB HEALTH & NUTRITION

All brands of vitamins, minerals, and supplements; cough, cold, flu, sore throat, and nasal care; infant formula and child nutrition; personal care and foot care (all associated packaging including blister packs, tubes, bottles, caps, lids, cans, boxes, spray bottles, and plastic). No prescription bottles.



HAIR AND SKIN CARE/COSMETICS

All brands. Hair care packaging (bottles/caps of shampoo and conditioner, hair gel tubes/caps, hair spray triggers, hair paste caps). Skin care packaging (lip balm tubes/caps, soap dispensers/tubes, bottles/caps of body wash and lotion dispensers). Cosmetics packaging (lipstick cases, lip gloss tubes, mascara tubes, eye shadow cases, eyeliner pencils, foundation packaging, powder cases).



SWIFFER REFILLS



Swiffer only brands of Sweeper™ Dry, Wet, and XL Refills, WetJet Refills™, and Duster™ Refills.

FOOD STORAGE

All brands of well-used plastic and glass food storage containers.



CIGARETTE BUTTS, SANTA FE NATURAL TOBACCO COMPANY

All brands of fully extinguished cigarettes (and ashes) and tobacco products, including filters, plastic packaging, inner foil packaging, rolling paper, and loose tobacco pouches.



OFFSITE RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES

REDYPER DISPOSABLE DIAPERS

Subscription service for purchasing and recycling Redyper brand disposable diapers through Terracycle

LOOP

Offers zero-waste packaging of everyday essentials (beauty, health and personal care, grocery, and household essentials) from leading brands (including Haagen-Dazs!). Details at www.loopstore.com

Details on all programs at www.themadeleine.edu/terracycle

In Memoriam

THE MADELEINE FAMILY REMEMBERS

LARRY MASON

A funeral Mass will be held for longtime parishioner Larry Mason on Sunday, July 18, 2:00 pm, at The Madeleine.

Born in 1941 to Gertrude and Carroll Mason, Larry grew up in Portland's Laurelhurst neighborhood and attended All Saints School. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1959, University of Portland in 1963, and earned his Medical Degree from University of Oregon School of Medicine in 1967. In 1966, he married the love of his life, Betsy Basgen, and together they raised three daughters. He served 2 years in the Air Force, earning the rank of Major, and in 1974 brought his family to Washington where he spent his 43-year career as a pediatrician at the Vancouver Clinic.

In his profession as pediatrician, Larry was respected for his intelligence and dedication, and loved by his patients including the students at The School for the Blind where he was the doctor for more than 30 years. He was known for running behind schedule as he gave each patient his undivided attention and kind, loving care. His sweet nature, patience, devotion, faith, and integrity guided him as a loving and cherished father and husband.

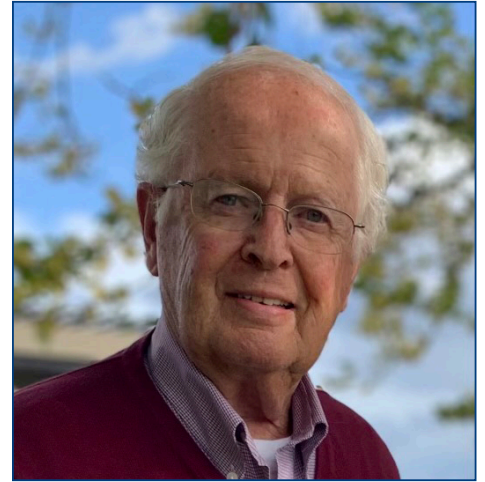
Besides his family, one of his greatest passions was hiking and backpacking in the beautiful wilderness of the Pacific Northwest with family and friends. He imparted this joy to his daughters, who he took on hikes and backpacking trips throughout their childhood. In 1978 Larry and Betsy bought a home in Sunriver, Oregon on the banks of the Deschutes River and the family made beautiful memories canoeing the river, riding the miles of bike paths, and

exploring the beauty of Central Oregon together. To record his love of the outdoors, Larry grew to be an avid photographer and found real joy in taking countless pictures of his beloved mountains and nature.

A lifelong Catholic, Larry was a man of profound faith and conviction. His faith was his compass and guided

him as a man of unparalleled honor and character. Family was the heart of what Larry cherished most – at every gathering, meal, and cocktail hour together, he would raise his glass, look around at his wife, daughters, son-in-law, and grandchildren with a smile and a sparkle in his bright blue eyes, and say “La Familia!”

Larry leaves behind his True Love, Betsy; daughters Laura Leach, Julie Sturtevant, and Sarah Pittenger (Chris); grandchildren Emma, Mason, Claire, Sarah Beth, Max, Kate, John Henry and Jane; and brothers Bruce and Michael.



Please pray for Larry, his family, and all the faithfully departed from The Madeleine

A versatile **event oasis** in the heart of **Historic Irvington**

With the world opening up and life getting closer to normal, we invite you to consider The Madeleine for your upcoming event needs.

THE MADELEINE HALL—

Whether dressed up for a formal gala, decorated for a dance, or setup for a professional dinner, The Madeleine Hall is our largest and most versatile space.

The high, gabled ceiling adds a majestic air, but the unique configuration retains an intimate feel.

THE FIRESIDE ROOM—On its own, The Fireside Room is a warm, cozy space for meetings, talks, recitals and small banquets. It seamlessly pairs with The Madeleine Hall for larger events or as a social area or silent auction space.



The Old Church



The Madeleine Hall



St. Catherine Room



Fireside Room

20 to 200 people in a breathtaking, historic setting. This beautiful space offers brand-new convenience and comfort with an historic 1911 aesthetic.

ST. CATHERINE ROOM—

This beautiful fellowship room, regaled with historically restored stained glass, is ideal for meetings, seminars or combined with The Old Church for larger events.

From wedding receptions and retreats to auctions, recitals and fundraisers, our versatile spaces—all air conditioned—are beautiful, cost effective and include ample amenities to make your event truly special.

Contact Ann Hart, Events Manager
ahart@themadeleine.edu
or call the Parish Office at 503-281-5777

THE OLD CHURCH—After undergoing a thoughtfully spectacular \$4.1 million renovation, **The Old Church at The Madeleine** is available for events from

“The Church draws her life from the Eucharist”

My dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus,

The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. With these words, Pope St. John Paul II began his last encyclical letter to the Church on the mystery of the most Holy Eucharist (*Ecclesis de Eucharistia*). Through this encyclical, the saintly Pope wished to rekindle in the Church a new *Eucharistic amazement*. Once we have realized the tremendous gift of the Eucharist that Jesus left to His Church, we should experience a sense of profound amazement and gratitude. In the Eucharist, Jesus has given us the gift of Himself, His true Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity under the mere appearance of bread and wine.

This encyclical letter was the inspiration for my own episcopal motto, *Vultum Christi contemplari*. “To contemplate the face of Christ, and to contemplate it with Mary, is the ‘programme’ which I have set before the Church at the dawn of the third millennium, summoning her to put out into the deep on the sea of history with the enthusiasm of the new evangelization. To contemplate Christ involves being able to recognize him wherever he manifests himself, in his many forms of presence, but above all in the living sacrament of his body and his blood. *The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist*; by him she is fed and by him she is enlightened. The Eucharist is both a mystery of faith and a ‘mystery of light.’ Whenever the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the faithful can in some way relive the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: “their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 6)

“The Second Vatican Council rightly proclaimed that the Eucharistic sacrifice is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life. For the most holy Eucharist contains the Church’s entire spiritual wealth: Christ himself, our passover and living bread. Through his own flesh, now made living and life-giving by the Holy Spirit, he offers life to men.’ Consequently, the gaze of the Church is constantly turned to her Lord, present in the Sacrament of the Altar, in which she discovers the full manifestation of his boundless love.” (Ibid., 1)

This is the heart of the matter. We discover the full manifestation of Christ’s boundless love within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Blessed Sacrament of the Lord’s Body and Blood. It is about the love of God for us.

We have all been through a terribly difficult 15 months or more. The impact of the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic on the lives of so many people has been profound. So many lives lost, so many grieving loved ones, so many exhausted by battling this disease on the front lines and tending to the sick, not to mention the economic, social, psychological, physical, and emotional toll on many. It has also seriously exacerbated the already deep political and ideological differences among the people of our country.

The impact of COVID-19 on the life of the Church has been no less profound. Seeking to keep people safe and trying to cooperate to the degree possible with civil authorities and their responsibility for public health and the common good has seriously affected the sacramental life of the Church. We all remember, with grief, the near complete shutdown of public life, including attendance at Holy Mass and access to the sacraments, in the early days of this pandemic.

Throughout this pandemic, I tried my best to navigate the complexities involved in making the best prudential judgements regarding our worship and sacramental practice. I did this with the very capable advice of my COVID Response Team and trusted outside consultants, especially devout Catholic medical experts. I am very grateful for everyone involved in this effort. In hindsight, there are things that I would do

differently, but we were trying to respond in real time to a quickly evolving situation for which none of were prepared. Things were changing on a weekly basis. We have all strived to do the best we could given the challenging circumstances.

I am so grateful to all pastors, priests, deacons, staff and volunteers at our parishes and missions for their tremendous leadership and hard work during this difficult time. I could not be more proud of the job they all did while navigating a complex reality for the good of their local communities.

I am especially grateful to all of the faithful of the Archdiocese of Portland for your patience, understanding and cooperation during this past 15 months. With rare exception, you maintained a spirit of unity and cohesiveness, even when you may have disagreed with the decisions being made. Your witness to unity and solidarity was inspiring, truly showing what it means to be the mystical Body of Christ.

With the new status of the COVID pandemic, resulting in far fewer infections, hospitalizations, and deaths, and with so many having chosen to receive the vaccine, the time has come for the most significant change in a long time regarding our divine worship.

Therefore, I am rescinding the general dispensation from the obligation to participate at Holy Mass on Sundays and holydays of obligation, which I granted on April 6, 2020. This becomes effective July 16, 2021. This means that the faithful are once again obligated to participate in the Holy Mass on Sundays and on holydays of obligation. I want to emphasize that a serious reason will excuse one from this obligation by virtue of the Church's law itself and as taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 2181). If you have any questions or concerns about what constitutes a serious reason in your particular situation, please speak to your pastor. The Archdiocese is also issuing new guidelines for the celebration of Holy Mass and other aspects of parish life.

Recalling how I started this pastoral message, this is not really about obligations and dispensations, is it? It's about *the love of our God* which He has poured out for us in His most beloved Son, Jesus Christ and which is manifested in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus makes Himself present for us in the Eucharistic Sacrifice of His own Body and Blood, and then invites us to the feast, which is a foretaste of the eternal life to which we are called and for which we have been created. I find it odd to speak about an *obligation* to receive this incredible gift of love from God and participate in this sacred mystery.

I often think of it this way: If Jesus had invited me to be at the Last Supper, would I have told Him I had something else on my calendar that day? If He had invited me to stand by His mother, Holy Mary, at the foot of the cross, would I have said I had to be somewhere else that day? If He had invited me to be at His tomb when the stone was rolled away as He rose from the dead, would I have replied that I was too busy? *Of course not!* Yet this is precisely what we celebrate and make present during every Mass. We sacramentally participate in the Paschal Mystery, i.e. the passion, death and resurrection of our Savior.

My dear Brothers and Sisters, it's time to return to the Eucharist with joy. For those of you who have already resumed your practice of attending Holy Mass, welcome back! For those who have yet to do so, there is no time like the present. Jesus waits for you with His love beyond all measure!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon



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