



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Bishop David L. Ricken issues dispensation from obligation to attend Sunday Mass due to COVID-19 for next three weekends**

GREEN BAY, Wis. (March 13, 2020) – Bishop David L. Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay announced today that while Sunday Mass will continue to be celebrated in parishes throughout the diocese, Catholics have been granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass due to concerns about the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This dispensation will cover the next three weekends, including Masses for Sundays March 15, 22, and 29. Masses will still be celebrated across the 16 counties of the diocese, but the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will be lifted for these three Sundays, leaving attendance to people's best judgement.

"During this time of heightened precautions we want to keep people safe, healthy and free from fear," said Bishop David L. Ricken. "These are measures to prevent an increase in the spread of the virus and serve as a precaution over the next three weekends. Following these three Sundays, we will reassess the situation."

Sunday Mass is available diocesan-wide via broadcast television on WBAY at 5:30 a.m. Sunday morning, on Relevant Radio, 1050 AM at 9 a.m., and through livestream from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay at the following link: <https://sfxcathedralgb.com>.

Those Catholics who chose not to attend Mass because of this dispensation are urged to remain home and pray fervently for healing, hope, and peace for all those affected by this illness.

The obligation to attend Mass for Catholics reflects our faith in Jesus Christ, the blessing of the Holy Eucharist and an acknowledgment of His great love for us.

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**Who we are:** As friends and followers of Jesus, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church. We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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