



Prot. N. 2021-0211 AB-A

## RESTORATION OF THE MASS OBLIGATION

*So that in Jesus Christ all might be rescued and have abundant life, for the glory of the Father. Amen.*

Due to the spread of the Coronavirus, I, the Most Reverend Samuel J. AQUILA, S.T.L., the undersigned Archbishop of Denver, having seen canons 87 §1, 835 §1, 860, 881, 920, 932, 964, 1118, 1247 of the *Code of Canon Law*; suspended the public celebration of the Mass, in the territory of the Archdiocese, on 13 March 2020, and issued a decree dispensing all the faithful from their obligation to participate, in person, in the Sunday Eucharist (Prot. N. 2020-0186); and

Whereas I issued guidance for resuming public Masses, on 9 May 2020 (Prot. N. 2020-0243), the Sunday obligation remained suspended; and

Whereas I issued updated guidance regarding the celebration of public Masses, on 30 September 2020, and I encouraged the faithful to participate in the Eucharist, in person, at least once a week, the Sunday obligation remained suspended; and

Whereas the coronavirus pandemic has mostly subsided in the territory of the Archdiocese of Denver, public health orders no longer limit the size of religious gatherings, and considering that all those who wish to receive a vaccine have had the opportunity to do so; and

Considering the importance and centrality of the participation in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist and the reception of the Eucharist when one is properly disposed, I,

### Decree

That the obligation of the faithful to participate in the Sunday Eucharist (and other holy days of obligation) is fully restored, in accord with canon 1247 of the *Code of Canon Law*;

As has always been the case, anyone with a “serious reason” or “grave cause” is excused from the obligation. In the case of the coronavirus, this includes: Anyone who is sick, symptomatic, or has been recently exposed to the coronavirus; anyone with significant health risk factors that requires them to avoid public spaces, including those who care for someone with significant risk factors; and anyone who cannot attend Mass through no fault of their own.

I further decree that the prior decrees suspending the obligation or continuing the suspension are fully revoked and replaced by this one.

I further decree that the revised document “Ministry in the Time of Coronavirus” (Prot. N. 2021-0211.1) should be reviewed and adhered to by all pastors.

I further extend the permission for clergy to use spaces other than the parish church for the celebration of Mass and the distribution of the Eucharist, but I now limit this to spaces adjacent to or on the same property of parish or mission churches.

I further decree that weddings which have already been scheduled to be celebrated outdoors or in places other than churches may still occur, but going forward, new ceremonies must be scheduled to be celebrated inside churches or permitted chapels and sacred spaces.

I further decree that the faculty to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation which I extended to all Pastors and Parochial Vicars is revoked as of 30 June 2021.

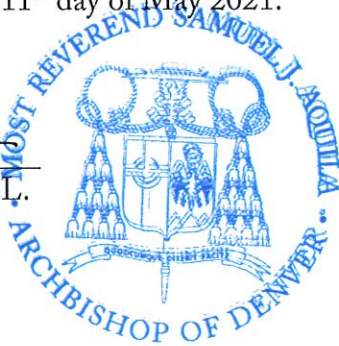
I furthermore order that this decree be made known in accordance with canon 54 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, and that it be sent to the archives of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Everything to the contrary, notwithstanding, this decree goes into effect on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2021, the Vigil of Pentecost and continues until it is revoked or amended by me;

Given at the Curia Denveriensis on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.



† Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.  
Archbishop of Denver





Rev. Matthew Magee  
Vice-Chancellor

