



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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October 7, 2020

RE: Fall Confirmation Masses

Dear Priests, Pastoral Leaders, and Catechetical Leaders:

I pray you are all safe and well.

Earlier this week I reinstated the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass due to the dramatic increase of coronavirus cases in our diocese. Additionally, due to this increase, I have made the difficult decision to postpone all Confirmation Masses scheduled for this fall.

In early December I will evaluate where things are at with regard to the coronavirus. I will look at a number of options as to how we can celebrate the Confirmation Masses that were postponed this fall to get them scheduled after the first of the year. At that time I will be in contact with you again.

Please share with the confirmands, I am so very sorry that I have to postpone their Confirmation Mass. However, this is another one of those decisions that must be made as we monitor the data with a measured response.

We need to really trust the Lord, to take the steps forward in prudence and faith, and be very solicitous to our confirmands and their families. We are learning to be, even in these very unforeseen circumstances, a missionary church, guided and enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

I continue to pray for all of those in our communities who are ill and for our health care workers who serve them and all of us. This is a primary opportunity not just to belong to the Church but to be the Church by safely *connecting to inspire* and by *embracing people's hearts* in very different ways.

May God bless you abundantly, as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay