



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Bishop David L. Ricken reinstates obligation to attend Sunday Mass**

GREEN BAY, Wis. (July 15, 2021) – Bishop David L. Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay announced this week the reinstatement of the Sunday Mass obligation effective the weekend of August 14-15, 2021.

“Since we are experiencing greater health in our communities and our parishes, after much discernment and consultation, I have decided to lift the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass effective on August 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven,” said Bishop Ricken. “Because we truly love God, and strive to be missionary disciples, we would want to spend time with Him, to worship, praise and adore Him. The Sunday Mass is the most complete way we can do this.”

Even with the reinstatement of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, it is important to note there are occasions when the obligation does not apply:

- If individual Catholics struggle with serious health concerns or are physically or morally prevented from worshipping at Mass for a serious reason
- If individuals are frail due to illness or age or, in their well-formed conscience believe that going into public places -- including Sunday worship at Mass -- would place their health or the health of their loved ones in serious jeopardy
- If individuals are sick, or have been in contact with someone who has been sick
- If there is severe weather

The faithful who are unable to attend Mass should follow the third Commandment “To Keep Holy the Lord’s Day” by spending time in prayer, reading the Scriptures, and taking part in acts of charity from home.

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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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