



ON LIVE STREAMING MASS

Before COVID-19 hit in March 2020, most parishes had never live streamed a single Sunday Mass. We had always been blessed with resources like Catholic Faith Network [CFN], St. Patrick's Cathedral Live, NET, and EWTN. But when in-person Masses were suspended for two months to help prevent the spread of the virus, pastors scrambled to offer the sacrament of the Eucharist to their faithful – at least remotely. Although streaming Mass predated COVID-19, it caught on during the pandemic. With parishioners unable to attend Mass in person, it provided a way to stay connected to the parish and our faith.

But now that we are pretty much back to normal, parishioners are asking if it is still okay to reverently attend Mass online. And priests are weighing the benefits of continuing to live stream their daily or weekly Masses. Does all this make staying at home and away from in-person Mass too easy? If so, why are some parishes adding to the confusion and still live streaming their Masses? What's the answer?

It has been suggested that churches evaluate the frequency of live streaming and limit the number of their virtual Masses while strengthening their efforts to encourage the faithful to return to attending in-person.

Live streaming and posting the Mass helps proclaim the Gospel to a wider audience. This includes the sick, the shut-in, the imprisoned, as well as those who face insurmountable obstacles to attendance. With sincere intentions, live streaming provides a lifeline. It also reaches out to the “unchurched” and the “fallen away”, bringing them the Gospel message and helping them to come home to the Lord and His Church. However, it was never intended for regular parish use. For the rest of us, we must attend every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.

The rule for in-person attendance applies to healthy people capable of getting there. Generally, if one is not sick, or does not have a major health concern, he or she should attend Mass in person. A suggested rule: if a person can go to work or engage in social activities, he or she is likely able to attend Mass.

You are certainly encouraged to quote His Eminence on this subject. If you would like to share his thoughts with parishioners, [click here](#).



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

June 30, 2021
Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Year of St. Joseph

Dear Family of the Archdiocese of New York,

May I raise two points with you today?

First, as we approach the Independence Day weekend, allow me to wish all of you an enjoyable summer. It is my hope that, after the trials and difficulties of these past 16 months, you will have an opportunity for some much-needed rest and relaxation. I am very much looking forward to spending some time with family and friends that I have not seen for more than a year!

Second, let me remind you that there is still a sacred obligation to attend Sunday Mass, even if you are on vacation. Unfortunately, there has been some confusion recently over whether or not a “dispensation” from Sunday Mass has been in effect. Here in the Archdiocese of New York, there has never been a dispensation from Sunday Mass, because no man can “dispense” or set aside a Divine (as opposed to man-made) law. The Third Commandment says, “Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day,” and I can no more say that this no longer applies than I can say that we can forget about “Thou shalt not steal” or “Honor thy father and thy mother.” To deliberately miss Mass is a sin.

Of course, the Church has always held that there may be some justifiable reasons why a person can miss Mass, including old age, illness, and infirmity; this is still the case. During this pandemic, public Mass was not being celebrated for several months, and when Mass resumed, there was still a possibility of catching or spreading the coronavirus, and individuals could, after carefully consulting their conscience, decide not to return to Mass right away. However, now that vaccination rates are up, Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, and people are returning to a more normal way of living, this excuse cannot be said to exist any longer. If you’re going to the mall, having dinner out in restaurants, heading to the ballgame, visiting the hairdresser, and the like, then you should also be at Mass!

Please be assured of a remembrance in my Mass and prayers during these summer months. Might I ask for a remembrance in yours?

A blessed summer.

Faithfully in Christ,

†Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York



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30 de junio de 2021
Mes del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús
Año de San José

Estimada familia de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York:

¿Puedo plantearles dos puntos hoy?

Primero, a medida que nos acercamos al fin de semana del Día de la Independencia, permítame desearles a todos un verano agradable. Espero que, después de las pruebas y dificultades de estos últimos 16 meses, tenga la oportunidad de descansar y relajarse. ¡Tengo muchas ganas de pasar algún tiempo con familiares y amigos que no he visto en más de un año!

En segundo lugar, permítame recordarle que todavía existe la obligación sagrada de asistir a la misa dominical, incluso si está de vacaciones. Desafortunadamente, recientemente ha habido cierta confusión sobre si ha estado en vigor o no una "dispensa" de la misa dominical. Aquí, en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York, nunca ha habido una dispensa de la misa dominical, porque ningún hombre puede "dispensar" o dejar de lado una ley Divina (en oposición a la hecha por el hombre). El Tercer Mandamiento dice: "Acuérdete de santificar el día de reposo", y no puedo decir que esto ya no se aplique más de lo que puedo decir que podemos olvidarnos de "No robarás" o "Honra a tu padre y a tu madre." Perder misa deliberadamente es un pecado.

Por supuesto, la Iglesia siempre ha sostenido que puede haber algunas razones justificables por las que una persona puede faltar a misa, incluida la vejez, la enfermedad y la dolencia; Este sigue siendo el caso. Durante esta pandemia, la misa pública no se celebró durante varios meses, y cuando se reanudó la misa, todavía existía la posibilidad de contraer o propagar el coronavirus, y las personas podían, después de consultar cuidadosamente con su conciencia, decidir no regresar a la misa de inmediato. Sin embargo, ahora que las tasas de vacunación han aumentado, se han levantado las restricciones de Covid-19 y las personas están regresando a una forma de vida más normal, ya no se puede decir que esta excusa exista. Si vas al centro comercial, cenas en restaurantes, vas al juego de pelota, vas a la peluquería y cosas por el estilo, ¡entonces también deberías estar en misa!

Tenga la seguridad de un recuerdo en mi Misa y oraciones durante estos meses de verano.
¿Puedo pedir un recuerdo en el tuyo?

Un verano bendito.

Fieles en Cristo,

† Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Arzobispo de Nueva York