



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
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GENERAL DECREE

Dispensation from the Obligation to Participate in Mass On Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation

Whereas recent days have seen an increase in immigration enforcement in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, causing a significant rise in fear and anxiety amongst our immigrant communities, and

Whereas the Christian faithful have an obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (c. 1246 §1, 1247), and the fear and anxiety caused by the recent immigration enforcement activity may deter some of the Christian faithful from fulfilling their obligation to attend Mass, which would be detrimental to their spiritual welfare, and

Whereas the Archdiocesan bishop is able to dispense the faithful from disciplinary laws, both universal and particular, when it contributes to their spiritual welfare (c. 87 §1).

I hereby dispense from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation all those persons living within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis who reasonably fear being detained, separated from their families, or experience intimidation due to the increased immigration enforcement. This applies even to those with proper legal documentation.

This dispensation will last through September 30th, 2026, unless further extended by decree.

The Christian faithful who discern they must make use of this dispensation are encouraged to supplement spiritual practices on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation with practices such as praying with the Sunday readings of the Lectionary, praying the rosary or other sacramentals, and/or watching a livestreamed Mass on television or the internet.

Pastors and all those who minister to the faithful within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are encouraged to attend to the spiritual care of those who must make use of this dispensation to the best of their ability, especially regarding the Sacraments Penance and Anointing of the Sick, or the distribution of Holy Communion to the homebound.

This decree is to be promulgated on the website of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and shared with all pastors and parish leaders. It enters into effect on 4 September 2026.



Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L.
Archbishop of Indianapolis



Henry Justin Reyes
Chancellor