



# Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

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His Excellency  
STEVEN JOHN RAICA  
By the grace of God and the Apostolic See  
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama

## DECREE EXTENDING THE DISPENSATION FROM THE SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY MASS OBLIGATION DUE TO COVID-19

In accordance with canons 87 § 1 and 90 of the *Code of Canon Law*, I make the following provision, recognizing that infection rates for COVID-19 remain generally high in the territory of the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama and that the dispensation granted by my predecessor, the Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D., shall expire on June 30, 2020:

I hereby extend the dispensation from the obligation to assist at Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, September 6, 2020 (inclusive) for all the Roman Catholic faithful who reside in the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama.

I exhort the pastors and parish administrators of the diocese to continue to exercise vigilance and caution in offering the sacraments and other church activities, following the guidelines promulgated by Bishop Baker on May 11, 2020.

Finally, I remind all the faithful who, due to concerns about COVID-19 and/or the prior suspension of public worship, have not yet been able to fulfill their "Easter Duty" (the Church's precept to confess mortal sins in number and kind and receive a worthy Holy Communion at least once a year, during the Lent or Easter season), to do so as soon as it is reasonably possible.

Given at the Diocesan Chancery in Birmingham on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, in the Year of the Lord 2020.

Most Reverend Steven J. Raica, J.C.D.  
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama

Very Reverend Bryan W. Jerabek, J.C.L.  
Chancellor