



May 20, 2021

Dear Saint Clarence Family of Faith

The Easter season is, as always, a season of rejoicing and exaltation in the glory of God and the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Today I bring to you even more cause for rejoicing for the Church as the gathered people of God.

The Bishops of the six Dioceses of Ohio have discerned in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Governor of Ohio that the time has arrived for the good of all the faithful when the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is no longer necessary. **THEREFORE, THE GENERAL OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION IS TO BE REINSTATED. THIS WILL TAKE EFFECT IN EACH OF THE DIOCESES IN OHIO ON THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 5-6, 2021**, which is the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—quite an appropriate time for us to gather together once again.

In light of this development Saint Clarence will, beginning with the weekend of June 5-6, 2021, cease the recording and/or live streaming of mass from our website and Facebook page. The Bishops in a May 13, 2021 letter have reminded us that, “masses that are broadcast through various media are not intended as a substitute nor do they fulfill the obligation for the persons who are able to gather for a Sunday celebration and other Holy Days of Obligation. Instead, they are intended for the sick, the home-bound, the imprisoned etc., who are unable to attend in person.”

Saint Clarence returned to the regular celebration of daily and weekend masses a full calendar year ago and we have done so successfully and prayerfully. We are currently averaging about 850 persons a weekend over the four scheduled masses each weekend. This is in comparison to a pre-pandemic average of about 1300. We have missed you and we look forward with eager anticipation to welcome you back to the Eucharistic table where the scriptures are broken open for us, the Body of Christ is broken for us and the Blood of Christ is poured out for us. We look forward to gathering once again as a full family of faith, raising our voices in praise and worship, gathered around the table where our hearts burn within us and we recognize Christ in the breaking of the bread.

I also want to thank all of you for your continued support of Saint Clarence and our ministries over the course of the past 15 or so months. These have been trying and exhausting times for you and for us as we have navigated our way through uncharted waters and unprecedented history. We could not have continued our ministries and our outreach to the poor (who have come to us in greater numbers during the pandemic) without your care and concern and support. Thank you from the entire Saint Clarence Staff!

And so, my brothers and sisters, let us rejoice and be glad! Let us go rejoicing once again to the House of the Lord, to become one Body; one Spirit in Christ. It is right and just that we do so; it is our duty and our salvation.

We look forward to greeting you in person soon!

Fr. Neil