

# Attendance at the New Mass

## Third Commandment

All baptized Catholics have the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday.

This obligation binds under pain of mortal sin.

However, there are exceptions. **The Church recognizes that certain situations may make it impossible or imprudent to attend Mass:**

- Very dangerous travel conditions, e.g. 27.1" of snow recently in Denver
- Great distances
- Poor health
- Duty of charity, e.g. need to stay at home with a sick loved one
- Employment necessary for one's livelihood (in which case you should try to go to Mass some other day of the week)

### **Other situations in which one is exempt from going to Mass**

1. Mass is not performed in the way that it should be, e.g. in a scandalous manner by a priest who is drunk
2. Going to Mass would present a danger to one's faith, e.g. priest is preaching heresy

*Both of these apply to the New Mass.*

### **The New Mass is not constructed in the way that a Catholic liturgy should be constructed:**

1. It hides the sacrificial nature of the Mass.
2. It demotes the priest, who offers the Mass in the person of Christ, to a mere presider over the faithful.
3. It devalues the Real Presence.

All of this was done for the purpose of making the Catholic Mass pleasing to the Protestants.

Overall, the New Mass avoids attacking the errors of the Protestants and so also avoids affirming Catholic teaching on those points.

*"It is evident that the Novus Ordo has no intention of presenting the faith as taught by the Council of Trent, to which, nonetheless, the Catholic conscience is bound forever... With the promulgation of the Novus Ordo Mass, the loyal Catholic is thus faced with a most tragic alternative."* –Ottaviani Intervention

*"The Novus Ordo Mass bears within it a poison harmful to the faith."* –Abp. Lefebvre

These criticisms apply to the New Mass, no matter how it is celebrated. The New Mass is problematic in its pristine form, independently of the circumstances of its execution. To hide the faith is to endanger the faith. If you are going to Mass every Sunday and it is not an authentic representation of Catholic worship, then it is going to be a danger to the faith.

Moreover, if the Mass is not giving proper worship to God, then it is defeating the very purpose for going to Mass on Sunday. The Third Commandment commands that we keep the Lord's Day holy. We do that by giving God proper worship. But the Novus Ordo Mass was designed purposely to hide the proper worship that we are to give to God.

**Fruits of the New Mass:** It is quite evident that the New Mass is a danger to faith by the widespread loss of faith since its promulgation. This was treated in the first episode of the Crisis series. Four of five cradle Catholics today leave the faith by the time they turn 23.

We are not saying that the New Mass is invalid. We are saying that it is not licit. There is a difference between validity and liceity. You can do ceremonies that are valid, but they are not pleasing to God, because they do not show Him the reverence that is due to Him, or they are not done in the right way. For instance, a person can receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the state of mortal sin. The Church commands the person to receive the sacrament in the state of grace, because it is a sacrament of the living. If a person receives the sacrament in the state of sin, it is valid, but it is not licit. The sacrament is imparted but it is not pleasing to God, because it is a sacrilege.

**Conclusion:** There is no obligation to attend the New Mass, if that is all that is available on Sunday.

1. We cannot be obliged to worship God with a worship that is not pleasing to Him.
2. We cannot be obliged to endanger our faith by going to a Mass that has caused so many to lose the faith.

Indeed, those who are aware of the problems of the New Mass have an obligation to avoid it. Just like if I knew that a certain priest preaches unorthodox things, I would have a duty not to attend his Mass, so too here, I must avoid what I recognize to be a danger to my faith.

Those faithful who cannot make it to a TLM are dispensed from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass. They are not, however, dispensed from the obligation to sanctify the Sunday as best as they are able.

They should view a livestreamed TLM, such as the one at St. Isidore's. They must not do servile work.

This is not to say that one may not attend a Novus Ordo Mass on the occasion of a wedding or funeral of a family member. However, they should just attend passively, in the sense that they do not participate in the Mass. They should not make the responses, do a reading, distribute Communion, or receive Communion.

Please note that I am not saying that everyone who goes to the Novus Ordo Mass is committing a sin. That is different from saying that you do not have an obligation to go. I am speaking of the *objective* realm, not the *subjective* realm, which considers the specific dispositions of each person. It is possible for a person to be attending the Novus Ordo Mass in good faith, not being aware that it is wrong. The Mass is objectively wrong, but the person attending is not aware of this fact and is not consenting to it.