

In light of the blizzard of two weekends ago, the Bishop has prepared the following statement offering guidance for occasions when serious weather conditions fall on a weekend. He asks that you kindly disseminate the statement by means of your weekly bulletin and website now and throughout the year.

Given the difficulty of communicating with all the faithful of the Diocese on short notice, Bishop Bootkoski offers the following guidance for those occasions when weather conditions might present a hazard walking or driving to church for Sunday Mass.

A Message from Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski

Catholics are not obliged to follow the precept to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation when weather conditions could make roads, sidewalks, and parking lots unsafe. When judging whether travelling could be dangerous, one should use common sense and always err on the side of caution.

When unable to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, the faithful still are encouraged to observe the Day of the Lord (Sunday). A practical approach may be to read and reflect on the Gospel of the day and, if living with others, you may discuss ways the Gospel message can be lived out in your own household, the Domestic Church. You may also consider praying together the Responsorial Psalm of the Day.

Finally, pastors and administrators are reminded that canon law enables you to dispense your parishioners from their Sunday Mass obligation "in individual cases" (c. 1245), which includes a single situation involving many persons.

Thank you.

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