



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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January 22, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For this past week we have been aware of the weather forecasts informing us of a potential major snowstorm heading to the Midstate, likely to begin this weekend and would affect Masses, particularly this Sunday. As I write this letter the potential of a significant storm is highly probable.

Please know of my utmost concern for your safety. While the faithful are obliged to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holydays, the obligation presumes a person's ability to reasonably fulfill it.

If a snow emergency is declared by state or local authorities, and/or road conditions are unsafe for travel the obligation to attend Mass is clearly not in force. The faithful would be encouraged in that situation to take advantage of a live-stream or televised Mass, along with personal and family prayer, in observance of Sunday.

Also, be aware that priests who must travel a distance to the church or mission may be unable to be present due to the weather conditions.

I pray that our Lord will keep all safe during this time of severe weather that we experience so rarely in winter anymore.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy C. Senior".

Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior
Bishop of Harrisburg