



## 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,

Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior  
Bishop of Harrisburg