



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2026

A Message from Bishop David J. Bonnar Regarding Holy Mass this Sunday

The winter storm warning forecasted for this weekend has prompted questions regarding the obligation to attend Holy Mass.

The Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church (Canon 1247) states that on Sundays and other Holy Days of obligation the faithful are obliged to participate in Holy Mass. However, the Church does not expect the impossible, nor does the law require fulfillment of the obligation when doing so would be dangerous.

There is no obligation to attend Holy Mass if weather and/or road conditions are unsafe or make travel dangerous or difficult, placing one's own life and the lives of others at risk, including those working to clear roadways for safe travel.

Let it be known that some of our priests in Ashtabula, Columbiana, Portage, Stark, Mahoning and Trumbull counties travel great distances every weekend to provide the Sacraments to our Faithful. Some of our priests for their own safety may not be able to travel due to the weather. We ask for your understanding in this matter. Despite the inclement weather, Sunday still remains the Lord's Day. If you are unable to attend Holy Mass, you are encouraged to take some time in prayer for the Lord.

Please contact your local parish for any information on possible changes in the Mass schedule.

A handwritten signature in black ink. It includes a small gold-colored cross symbol followed by the name "David J. Bonnar" in a cursive script.

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar, Bishop of Youngstown