



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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22 February 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the Lord! As we stand at the beginning of this holy season of Lent, I extend to you my best wishes for a fruitful and grace-filled season as we prepare as a Church to celebrate the saving mysteries of our faith in the Lord this Easter.

Lent is a season marked by penitential practices, not least of which is the abstinence from eating meat on all Fridays. This practice has been the norm within the dioceses of the United States for many years, and I am confident that no Catholic Christian lightly neglects this penitential practice. As I would remind, this law of abstinence from meat on the Friday of lent binds those Catholics who have completed the fourteenth year of their age (c. 1252).

Nevertheless, it sometimes happens that during the Lenten season certain feasts occur that prompt a decision to exempt from the usual penitential practices. One such day is the memorial of St. Patrick, which falls this year on Friday, March 17. This day is well known as a day of convivial celebration for many American Catholics.

I therefore grant that on Friday, March 17, 2023, all Catholics of the Archdiocese of Louisville, and all other Catholics actually present in the Archdiocese on that day, are dispensed from the obligation (can. 87 §1).

With my prayers that the season of Lent will be a time of spiritual renewal and conversion for us all, I remain,

Sincerely in the Lord,

The Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville