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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Diocese of Pittsburgh Issues Mass Dispensation and Weekend Weather Guidance**

PITTSBURGH — With the significant winter storm forecast to impact western Pennsylvania this weekend, Bishop Mark Eckman has granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for all Catholics in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Local meteorologists are warning that this could be one of the most significant snow events in recent years, with hazardous roads and bitter cold expected through Monday.

In light of these forecasts, the Diocese urges parishioners to place safety first in considering weekend travel.

Because conditions may vary widely across the six counties of the Diocese, there will be limited Masses at only certain churches this weekend. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to check parish websites and social media pages or call their parish offices before traveling, as schedules and availability may change based on local conditions.

No one should place themselves or others at risk due to dangerous weather.

Those who are able to do so safely may consider attending a Saturday Vigil Mass. Those who are unable to attend Mass should sanctify the Lord's Day through prayer, reading the Scriptures, participating in a livestreamed or televised Mass, and spiritual communion.

Bishop Eckman also encourages the faithful to look out for neighbors during the storm, particularly the elderly, those who live alone, and anyone who may need assistance.

Additional updates will be shared as needed through diocesan and parish communication channels.