



# ***The Diocese of Knoxville***

*Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee*

MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## **Bishop Richard F. Stika to undergo heart procedure** **Catholic leader asks for prayers, expects quick recovery**

KNOXVILLE--- Most Rev. Richard F. Stika, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville, says a cardiac procedure he faces in December won't keep him down long. In fact, the shepherd of the Catholic Church in East Tennessee fully expects to be celebrating Masses again before Christmas.

A stress test conducted during a recent scheduled physical revealed the need for further medical attention. Therefore, sometime in December the bishop will undergo a heart catheterization procedure. At that time, doctors will determine the best course of action. It is hoped that the placement of a stent will address the issue.

"I have been feeling tired lately. It is best that we found this issue now, rather than later," Bishop Stika said. "It's good to know that my guardian angels are always working out with me."

Bishop Stika canceled a trip planned for Dec. 13-16 to spend time before Christmas with his family in St. Louis. He hopes to have the heart procedure scheduled on or around Dec. 13.

"If everything goes as planned, I expect to be hospitalized for just one night, and I fully plan to be back celebrating Masses before Christmas," Bishop Stika said.

"During this time of continued evaluation, and as the date of the procedure approaches, I request that you please pray me, for my doctors, and for my quick recovery," he added.

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