

Dear Parishioners of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Pen Argyl, PA:

Due to the impending severe Winter Storm expected to affect our area from early Sunday, January 25, into Monday, January 26, the Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown, has reminded that the obligation to attend Mass does not apply to those unable to attend due to illness, dangerous travel, or other serious reasons.

The “obligation to attend Mass” arises from divine law, Apostolic tradition, and ecclesiastical authority. It is a “serious” obligation, and one of the five traditional “precepts of the Church.” At the same time, *serious and grave reasons inherently excuse the obligation*: the most obvious and common is illness. Less common are serious storms, such as that forecasted this Sunday.

In light of the projected conditions, I encourage parishioners to attend the Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM. **Travel conditions on Sunday will seriously hinder transportation to and from the church, i.e., road conditions, visibility, icy surfaces, dangerously cold temperatures.**

Additionally, because the Sunday Mass times fall during the expected hours of heaviest snowfall (8am to 5pm, 100% chance of heavy snow), **the parking lot, sidewalks and entrances to the Church obviously will not be cleared of snow.**

At Saint Elizabeth, Mass will be offered at 8:30am only. **The 10:30am Mass is cancelled. Please exercise sound judgment and caution in view of the fact that it will be impossible to have a clear path into the Church during the height of the storm.**

Your obligation is lawfully commuted to another pious exercise in view of the above serious circumstances. You may sanctify the Lord’s Day at home by spending time in prayer, or reading Sacred Scripture.

Thank you for exercising good judgment and common sense.