



Mary Queen of the Apostles Parish

SPECIAL MESSAGE REGARDING MASS ATTENDANCE
AND WEATHER EMERGENCIES

February 1, 2026

Dear Parishioners:

The recent winter storm caused many people to wonder if Masses were canceled at their parish. Some did a Google search to find the parish website and saw the word "closed" under the parish "Google profile" and thought that meant Masses were canceled. People also wondered if they were still obligated to attend Mass as the winter storm was underway. I would like to offer some clarification and guidance.

First, unless there is no electrical power, or unless there is a fire, or another catastrophic event (covid-19 outbreak), or unless there is a medical emergency on the part of the celebrating priest, Masses will always be held as scheduled at St. Bridget of Kildare Parish and Mary Queen of the Apostles Parish. Even if no one is able to make it to church, the celebrant will still offer the Mass for the intention requested that day. I remember celebrating a weekday Mass with only two congregants.

If you Google search the parish name and you see the word "closed" under the parish Google profile, that notice is referring to the parish office only, as it is closed on the weekends and after business hours. "Closed" is not being used in reference to the church building and does not infer Masses are canceled.

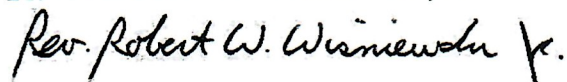
Second (and this is important), *no one is obligated to attend Mass when it is too dangerous to do so.* While such conditions are extremely rare, the recent weekend storm was a case in point. In such cases the Sunday Mass obligation is lifted automatically. But because one person's "danger" may be another person's "adventure," I generally tell people when they ask about it, if the sensible weather is such that, in good conscience, it causes you to be nervous about driving in it or

being exposed to it, then it is best to remain at home. Not only can heavy snow be a concern, but also severe icing, subzero temperatures and/or wind chills, or winds reaching warning criteria. Our senior citizens are particularly vulnerable, especially those of advanced age, those using canes and walkers, and those who experience breathing issues in the extreme cold. If the outdoor conditions are dangerous, if driving conditions are hazardous, if we are under the effects of a severe winter storm and weather warnings are posted, the obligation to attend Mass is lifted, meaning "set aside."

In the above circumstances, all are reminded to still honor the Sabbath by viewing the Diocesan TV Mass, praying the rosary, or even meditating on the Sunday's readings. (A Mass is regularly recorded and posted at St. Bridget and Mary Queen of the Apostles, but hazardous driving conditions may prevent the recording personnel from arriving to record the Mass.)

Fr. Donald Ewulu and I reside at St. Bridget. Fr. Roel Casas resides at Mary Queen of the Apostles. We just have to walk to church, while most of you must drive. You know yourself, your vehicle, and your driving abilities best of all. Use your best judgment. We will always be here to celebrate Mass with you.

Rev. Robert W. Wisniewski, Jr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Robert W. Wisniewski Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor