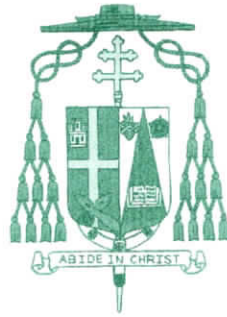


Archdiocese of Santa Fe
4000 St. Joseph Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120



Telephone: 505-831-8120
Fax: 505-831-8101
Email: archbishop.office@archdiosf.org

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

February 22, 2023

Statement to the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe:

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin this holy season of Lent, we give thanks to God for this time of reflection and prayer when we can prepare to renew our baptismal promises and celebrate the great solemnity of Easter. Part of our preparation involves engaging in penitential practices, namely, prayer, fasting and works of charity. To this end, the Bishops of the United States have preserved in our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, "confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice" (National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Statement, November 18, 1966, n. 13). The law of abstinence binds those Catholics who have completed the fourteenth year of their age (can. 1252).

From time to time, certain feasts occur during the Lenten season that suggest a more festive celebration (USCCB Statement, n. 16). This year, the Memorial of Saint Patrick falls on Friday, March 17. It is well known that Saint Patrick's Day is a day of convivial celebration for many American Catholics.

I therefore decree that on Friday, March 17, 2023, all Catholics of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico, no matter where they may be, and all other Catholics present in the Archdiocese on that day, are, by my authority, dispensed from the obligation (can. 87 §1). It is not required that anyone make use of this dispensation. Those who do wish to make use of it are encouraged to abstain from meat on some other day as part of their penitential practices during Lent.

Given this twenty-first day of February, two thousand twenty-three, in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Wester".

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe