

March 7, 2017

Statement from Bishop Edward C. Malesic lifting obligation to abstain from meat on feast of St. Patrick

Throughout the season of Lent we focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to draw closer to Jesus and better appreciate the ultimate sacrifice he made for us on Good Friday.

This year, the feast of St. Patrick, March 17, falls on a Friday. Some have asked me to dispense from the obligation to abstain from eating meat on this particular Lenten Friday due to the traditional nature of its observance or for other related personal reasons. After prayerful consideration, I am granting this dispensation for those who desire to include the eating of meat in order to celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick.

However, I ask those who choose to eat meat on the Feast of St. Patrick to select another day to abstain from eating meat or to make some offering on behalf of the poor, whether by prayer, fasting or almsgiving at another time during the Lenten season.

In all things, we attempt to imitate the joy of the saints as well as observe the same seriousness with which they practiced their Catholic faith. My prayers remain with all those who faithfully follow the Way of the Cross to the glory of the Resurrection.

Your brother in Christ,
Bishop Edward C. Malesic