



Bishop lifts dispensation of obligation to attend Sunday Mass

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, has lifted the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and holy days of obligation in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The obligation for Catholics in good health went into effect November 29, 2020, the First Sunday of Advent.

Bishop Provost granted the dispensation on March 17, 2020, due to the suspension of public liturgies amid the global pandemic of the COVID-19 virus. The gradual reopening of churches for public Masses began on May 1, but the dispensation had remained in place.

In lifting the dispensation, the directives of September 25, 2020, remain in effect allowing for 75% of church occupancy. Pastors will continue to adhere to state guidelines regarding the number and manner of attendance. The only change in the directives concerns the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days.

Please note: Bishop Provost reminds those who are ill, immune deficient, symptomatic, in a state of anxiety concerning the illness, or at high risk due to chronic conditions,

that they are already dispensed by the law from the obligation to attend Mass.

Precautions that have been in place will remain, including sanitizing church parishes, the use of face masks and hand sanitizer, and the practice of social distancing. In doing so, there is no greater risk for contracting COVID-19 at church than when someone is at the grocery store, at work, or any other public setting.

The faithful who are unable to attend Mass are urged to make holy the Lord's Day and to pray, read the Scriptures, and take part in acts of charity.

For questions or clarifications, please consult the Dean of the respective Deanery.

- Central Deanery — Very Reverend Matthew Cormier, V.F.
- East Deanery — Very Reverend Keith Pellerin, V.F.
- South Deanery — Very Reverend Rojo A. Koonathan, HGN, V.F.
- West Deanery — Very Reverend Edward Richard, M.S., V.F.



WHEREAS on March 17, 2020, the faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles were dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation due to a global pandemic and restrictions limiting the faithful's access to the same; and

WHEREAS the Third Commandment of the Decalogue instructs us to "keep holy the Sabbath," and the first precept of the Church commands us "to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation"; and

WHEREAS given the current availability of the Mass, the health and safety measures in place, and the negative spiritual effects of an even more protracted dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation;

GLEN JOHN PROVOST
BISHOP OF LAKE CHARLES

DECREES

That the dispensation from the sacred obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation is hereby lifted and, consequently, that the faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles are to return to this most sacred obligation, beginning on Sunday, November 29, 2020, the First Sunday of Advent.

Given on day 27 of November in the Year of Our Lord 2020.

Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

(Very Rev.) Ruben Villarreal
Vice-Chancellor



Representatives of Knights of Columbus Father Roach Council 3217 (Dickinson, Texas) and their families join Bishop Glen John Provost after Mass on Sunday, November 15, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Knights drove from Dickinson to present a donation for \$12,500 along with supplies for hurricane relief efforts in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The funds, in addition to the nearly \$5,600 the Council paid for hurricane recovery project expenses, brought the total donated to just over \$18,000.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed for the Christmas holiday Thursday, Dec. 24, through Friday, Jan. 1. All offices reopen on Monday, Jan. 4, for regular office hours — 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The next Catholic Calendar will be published on Christmas Day.

Prayer for Recovery of the Diocese

The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, composed a prayer for the recovery of the Diocese of Lake Charles in the wake of Hurricane Laura that made landfall in Southwest Louisiana on August 27, 2020. Six weeks later, Hurricane Delta also impacted the crippled region on October 9.

Heavenly Father, Who willed that the fallen hut of David be rebuilt; that Your people return from exile to repopulate their lands, rebuild Jerusalem and restore the Temple; that Your Son, Jesus Christ, would be the new temple and that He would build a new Jerusalem, firmly set on the twelve apostles of the Lamb; look, Gracious Creator, upon our devastation now in the Diocese of Lake Charles and along the coast; rouse up in the hearts of many good and faithful workers the courage, perseverance, and fortitude to bring Your task to a successful completion, where what is recovered will give Your name glory and be protected from the onslaught of the Devil; put to flight lethargy of spirit and fortify our wills so that the good works of Your faithful people will be seen as fulfilling Your work; grant us understanding, God of all light and reason, so that we will comprehend Your ways and see in every suffering and tribulation an occasion to embrace Your will and grow in love for You. Grant, loving Father, through that same Jesus Christ, our Lord, all these prayers by the intercession of Our Lady Star of the Sea, You, who live and reign in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

+The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles
On the occasion of Hurricane Laura

August 27, 2020

Bishop's Services Appeal begins its 40th effort

LAKE CHARLES — The 40th annual fundraising effort conducted in the Diocese of Lake Charles — the Bishop's Services Appeal — began in the parishes of the diocese on Sunday, Nov. 29, the First Sunday of Advent, with this year's theme being "Now you are Christ's body, and individually part of it," coming from I Corinthians 12:27.

This year's goal stands at \$824,000 and contributions to the BSA provide for assistance to a variety of ministries of the local church including Catholic Education, Youth Ministry, Vocations/Seminarians, Catholic Charities, Family Life, Annulment and other Tribunal Fees, Seafarers Center, Diocesan Counseling, Evangelization, Communications, and Saint Charles Center.

In his Bishop's Services Appeal message, Bishop Glen John Provost said, "As we begin this Advent season, I am reminded of a comment I heard often as a parish

priest: 'The weeks leading to Christmas are always so busy and stressful that I am usually happy when it's over!' After this year, I cannot help but smile when I think of how eagerly we would now embrace those duties in exchange for a "normal" Advent and Christmas season."

"In many ways, what once appeared stressful no longer does, and what was once taken for granted can no longer be," the Bishop said. "Yet as much as we would welcome a return to normalcy, we have, amidst the uncertainties and difficulties of this year, continued to press forward with the everyday duties of life, and with the Advent season upon us, we are reminded of the need to continue on our path."

"For the Diocese, these everyday tasks have also continued, though with increased urgency after Hurricanes Laura and Delta damaged or destroyed many of our parishes and dioc-

esan facilities. After Laura we quickly mobilized available resources, both administrative and charitable. We formed a recovery team, contracted the services of a company to facilitate FEMA assistance for our parishes and schools, and began humanitarian efforts. Catholic Charities was, by the grace of God, operational within thirty-six hours of the storm's landfall and has since distributed vast quantities of material resources.

"Saint Charles Center was used to house seminarians as well as priests whose parish rectories were destroyed, while Camp Karol has been organized to provide temporary office space for diocesan personnel, until significant wind and water damage can be repaired at the diocesan offices," he continued. "We have also coordinated and received donations for the broader recovery effort. The generous response of so many has been truly humbling, espe-

cially when we think that some parishes remain open in large part because of the availability of these resources.

"During this holy season, we continue to press forward as a community of faith, united in our efforts and eagerly awaiting the Prince of Peace, whose birth under the most trying of conditions reveals that the true desire of our hearts is not for normalcy — but for peace," he concluded.

Donors have a number of payment options to make their contribution:

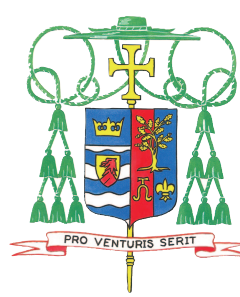
- By check or cash in your parish's special BSA collection envelope.
- By designating a donation at any time in your parish's collection.
- By credit card or electronic check (ACH) through the Diocese of Lake Charles' website at <http://www.lcdioocese.org/resources/support-the-diocese>.

*Now you are Christ's body,
and individually part of it.*

I CORINTHIANS 12:27



DIocese OF LAKE CHARLES
BISHOP'S SERVICES APPEAL
2020 - 2021



Christmas Mass Schedule for the churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles

Bell City

St. John Vianney
(7120 Highway 14 E.)
11:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

Big Lake

St. Mary of the Lake
(11054 Highway 384)
3:00 p.m., 4:15 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Carlyss

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
(4822 Carlyss Drive)
4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve);
7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m. (Day)

DeQuincy

Our Lady of LaSalette
(203 S. Grand Avenue)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

DeRidder

St. Joseph
(1125 Blankenship Drive)
5:00 p.m., (Eve); 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. (Day)

Elizabeth

St. Frances of Rome Mission
(204 Poplar Street)
8:00 a.m. (Day)

Elton

St. Joseph
(209 Al Woods Street)
4:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)
St. Paul
(1100 St. Mary Street)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Fenton

St. Charles Borromeo
(804 Third Avenue)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Hackberry

St. Peter the Apostle
(1210 Main Street)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Iowa

St. Raphael
(211 S. Thomson Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)
St. Peter Claver Mission
(503 Second Street)
8:00 a.m. (Day)

Jennings

Immaculate Conception
(705 S. Lake Arthur Avenue)
4:00 p.m., (Eve); 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)
Our Lady Help of Christians
(710 N. State Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. (Day)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
(920 S. Broadway)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Johnson Bayou

Our Lady of the Assumption Mission
(5556 Highway 82)
11:00 a.m. (Day)

Kinder

St. Philip Neri
(607 Fourth Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Lacassine

St. John the Evangelist Mission
(306 Ann Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m. (Day)

Lake Arthur

Our Lady of the Lake
(203 Commercial Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. (Eve);
9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. (Day)

Lake Charles

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
(Corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight,
6:00 a.m. (Extraordinary Form)
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Extraordinary Form),
7:00 p.m. (Extraordinary Form) (Day)
Christ the King
(7680 Gulf Highway)
(Masses celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church)
(3939 Lake Street)
8:30 p.m. (Eve); 2:00 p.m. (Day)
Immaculate Heart of Mary
(2031 Opelousas Street)
(All Masses celebrated in Founders' Hall)
4:00 p.m. (Eve);
12:00 Midnight, 8:30 a.m. (Day)
Our Lady of Good Counsel
(221 Aqua Drive)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m., 11 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady Queen of Heaven

(3939 Lake Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight,
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. (Day)
Sacred Heart of Jesus
(610 Louisiana Avenue)
4:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)
St. Henry
(1021 Eighth Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (bilingual) (Eve);
12:00 Midnight (bilingual), 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. (Day)
St. Margaret of Scotland
(2500 Enterprise Blvd.)
(NW Corner of Enterprise Blvd & 17th Street)
4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. (Eve);
12:00 Midnight, 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)
St. Martin de Porres
(5495 Elliott Road)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Due to social distancing everyone attending St. Martin de Porres must make a reservation

Moss Bluff

St. Theodore
(785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway)
4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m. (Eve);
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Day)

Oakdale

Sacred Heart of Jesus
(1208 E. 7th Avenue)
7:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Oberlin

St. Joan of Arc
(110 W. 5th Avenue)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Ragley

St. Pius X
(16816 Highway 171)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Day)

Raymond

St. Lawrence
(5505 Pine Island Highway)
5:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Day)

Sulphur

Immaculate Conception
(2700 Maplewood Drive)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)
Our Lady of LaSalette
(602 N. Claiborne Street)
4:00 p.m. (Children's Mass), 8:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Prompt Succor

(1109 Cypress Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., (Eve); 12:00 Midnight,
8:00 a.m. (Extraordinary Form), 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. (Day)

Vinton

St. Joseph
(1502 Industrial Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Welsh

Our Lady of Seven Dolours
(209 N. Adams Street)
4:00 p.m., (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Joseph

(310 N. Sarah Street)
5:00 p.m. (Eve) 11:00 a.m. (Day)

Westlake

St. John Bosco
(1301 Sampson Street)
4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight,
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Catholic Charities has been lifeline for hurricane victims

By Pamela Seal

Diocese of Lake Charles

Heroes with halos is one way to describe hurricane relief efforts going on in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Sister Miriam MacLean, R.S.M., executive director of Catholic Charities of South-west Louisiana, was on the ground running within hours of Laura's August 27 landfall, and again the day after Hurricane Delta's arrival on October 9. Since then, Catholic Charities has been a lifeline for the five-parish region impacted by back-to-back hurricanes.

With the help of countless volunteers, Sister Miriam and the Religious Sisters of Mercy have not stopped in their efforts to serve the broken down and broken hearted.

"We are here, we are open, and we are trying to meet the needs of the community," said Sister Miriam. "The Lord preserved Catholic Charities from any major damage (from both storms) allowing us to be operational during a time when people desperately need help."

Early on, Catholic Charities was operating with a generator and a staff of three and relied heavily on church parishes to serve as distribution sites for food and supplies. As the community's needs increased after being hit by a second hurricane, Sister Miriam was grateful to have four more Religious Sisters of Mercy from its motherhouse in Alma, Michigan, assist for

a couple of weeks.

"Those church parishes that could organize distribution centers were amazing and did so much, but they were tired," said Sister Miriam. "I knew we needed to step up our game, even more after Delta, to help fill the gap."

In a two-month period, nearly 750 pallets including food, cleaning and baby supplies, were delivered to churches as far as Big Lake, Kinder, Jennings, Vinton, and many locations in Lake Charles, Sulphur, Moss Bluff and Ragley. Keeping things in perspective, one pallet of food holds anywhere from 800-1,100 pounds of food.

Whether it is driving Catholic Charities' 26-foot truck "Big Joe" to transport supplies, serving hot meals, unloading and organizing food from Second Harvest, or working a shift in the laundry trailer, Sister Miriam said it has been beautiful to see how much can be accomplished with volunteers.

"It's such a gift to see the Lord providing between so many generous people. One of the greatest gifts has been that Catholic Charities is able to remain steady and make its presence known," she said. "It is a reminder that the Church has served the poor for 2,000 years. This is not a time to crumble or to withdraw, but a time to be Christ's light in a time when people are fearful not knowing where their next meal is coming from, to know help is out there."



Anthony Clemons

The motivation and drive illustrated by the Religious Sisters of Mercy has captivated warehouse specialist, Anthony Clemons. On loan from Second Harvest in Lafayette, he has been assisting at Catholic Charities since a couple of weeks after Hurricane Laura. Clemons makes the commute from Lafayette to Lake Charles five to six days a week keeping a record of all the donations coming in and going out — anything from toilet tissue to baby wipes, generators to tarps, rakes, detergent and cleaning supplies, canned goods and bottled water.

"It's magnificent to be a part of this. It's just like Christmas, the spirit of giving," said Clemons who was raised with seven of his own

sisters. To be working with the "flying nuns," he affectionately calls the Religious Sisters, is uplifting, he said. "They are so spiritual and are like family to me."

Clemons said he has always been fascinated by hurricanes but focused later in life on the impact they had on people who lost family members.

"As I grew older, I started realizing lives were being lost, people were displaced and might have nothing left but the shirt on their back," he recalled. "What can I do to help? I prayed that God would give me the strength to go out to be that vessel for others."

Clemons is an early riser from his Army days and doesn't mind the long commute every day.

"God put something in me that called me to want to help," he said. "The drive back and forth gets shorter and shorter with each trip. I do a lot of thinking and a lot of praying. The most important thing is knowing that I can do my part to help. This area was devastated."

Clemons played a part in shining the national spotlight on Catholic Charities in late October when ABC's "Good Morning America" broadcast live from St. Louis Catholic High School. Clemons represented Second Harvest for the segment on Feeding America.

Catholic Charities, known for its mission of providing for the poor, has seen

an influx of people reaching out for help because of the hurricanes and ongoing cases of COVID-19.

Carolyn Washington, receptionist and case worker who is dealing with damages to her own home, said people come in crying about not having anything.

"They just need someone to listen to their stories," said Washington. "You have to love on these people in need. One day it could be me. Just listening to them is huge. My house isn't great anymore and every day I see a different crack in my walls, but at least I am still able to put my key in the door."

Washington said she has seen more people come in who have never asked for assistance, many of them looking for places to live.

"We don't assist with housing, but Catholic Charities does offer financial assistance with rent and mortgage payments. Many families were requesting tents because they couldn't afford to stay in hotels any longer," she said. "Two months after Laura, Catholic Charities had issued nearly \$45,000 worth of hotel vouchers helping more than 100 families."

Recognizing God's hand in the ministry of helping the poor and vulnerable, Sister Miriam credits the stability of the Religious Sisters of Mercy in keeping her strengthened and energized each day.

"It has been a privilege to have the experience of living our religious life in whatever

circumstances we find ourselves," she said. "The stability of prayer is key to staying focused. After Laura, we were without electricity for eight days, so we prayed with our flashlights in the chapel in the morning. For me, that was a beautiful experience, uncomfortable and hot, but beautiful."

Sister Miriam knows the need is great in the community and relief efforts will be long term, but she trusts in the generosity of people and God's goodness.

"Ask for what you need because people will give it to you," she said. "There comes that time when you realize you can't do it alone. God does provide. The more generous we are, the more generous He is through His people."



Sr. Miriam MacLean, RSM