

Summary of the Lenten Dispensation/Commutation

For Catholics

On St. Patrick's Day

Friday, March 17, 2017

- **Granted by the Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Parish**
- **With the Approval and Blessing of Bishop Paprocki**
- **For Parishioners and Visitors eating St. Patrick's Dinner at St. Rose**
- **This includes carry-outs**
- **Not a complete dispensation for the entire day but only for that meal**
- **Commutation: they must abstain from meat at another meal that week.**

St. Patrick's Day Dinner at St. Rose

Lenten Dispensation

Since 2009, St. Rose of Lima Parish has been celebrating its secondary patron saint, St. Patrick, with a dinner offering the traditional fare of cabbage and corned beef. This year, the Feast of St. Patrick (March 17), falls on a Friday in Lent. Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence obliges one to abstain from all meats and meat products. It applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

Wishing nevertheless to foster a joyful and reverent devotion to our patron saint, to honor the Irish people who sacrificed so much and built our magnificent church, a testimony to their great faith, I wish to grant an individual commutation of the law of abstinence to those parishioners or visitors attending the St. Patrick's Day dinner at St. Rose. They may eat meat only at this meal and must abstain from meat the rest of the day. They must also abstain from meat at another meal that week. This applies also to those who might eat their meal outside the parish property (carry-outs). No special request is required as I will consider your sharing our St. Patrick's Dinner as an implicit request.

This individual dispensation does not extend to Catholics who live across the river and belongs to the neighboring Dioceses of Jefferson-City, MO and Davenport, IA as they are already dispensed from abstinence by their Bishop. In the latter diocese, if you decide to eat meat on St. Patrick's feast, you must abstain from meat another day of the 2nd week of Lent. For other dioceses, please contact your parish. This dispensation does not extend to Catholics of this diocese who do not share in this festal St. Patrick celebration at St. Rose. However, these Catholics, for a just reason, may request an individual dispensation from their own Parish priest.

This dispensation does not remove the obligation to undertake works of penance during the rest of the Lenten season. Every weekday of Lent is a day of penance.

Fr. Arnaud Devillers,

Pastor

Dear Father Devillers,

Yes, you have the authority as pastor to grant a dispensation or commutation of a day of penance per canon 1245 of the Code of Canon Law, which states, "With due regard for the right of diocesan bishops which is mentioned in can. 87, for a just reason and in accord with the prescriptions of the diocesan bishop, the pastor in individual cases can dispense from the obligation to observe a feast day or a day of penance; or he can commute it to other pious works." Your "just cause" would be the annual parish event you have planned.

In keeping with the penitential spirit of Lent, may I suggest that, rather than grant a dispensation for the whole day, you instead commute the prescribed penance of abstinence for that one meal only for those attending the parish's St. Patrick Day Dinner, while asking those faithful to abstain from meat, perhaps the day before or the day after.

Yours with love in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

† Bishop Paprocki