



JEFFREY J. WALSH

Bishop of Gaylord
By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See

DECREE

Dispensation from Abstinence for Friday, March 17, 2023, the Feast of St. Patrick

During Lent, Fridays are days of abstinence obligating one to abstain from eating meat and meat products as a common sign and witness of penitence in the Catholic community. Abstinence applies to all Catholics who are 14 years of age or older.

This year, St. Patrick's Day occurs on Friday, March 17, 2023. It is a feast that is celebrated in a culturally significant way for many within the Diocese of Gaylord. Having received several requests from various sectors of the diocese for a consideration of a dispensation from abstinence to commemorate the memorial of St. Patrick within the Irish tradition, and for the spiritual good of the faithful who celebrate this feast, I hereby grant a dispensation from the discipline of abstinence on Friday, March 17, 2023, to all Catholics who are domiciled or visiting in the territory of the Diocese of Gaylord.

Furthermore, those who choose to utilize this dispensation, are to perform another suitable penance on the day before or the day after St. Patrick's Day to express their penitential solidarity with the Catholic community.

Given in Gaylord, Michigan on this the 8th day of March in the year of our Lord, 2023, the Feast of St. John of God.

Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord

Reverend James P. Hayden
Vicar General

