



***Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls***  
*Office of the Bishop*

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**MEMO**

DATE: March 7, 2017  
TO: Priests Ministering in the Diocese of Sioux Falls  
CC: Deacons Ministering in the Diocese of Sioux Falls  
FROM: The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain + *PK*  
RE: Lenten Abstinence from Meat on St. Patrick's Day

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The optional March 17 memorial to Saint Patrick falls on Friday this year, a day of abstinence from meat during the season of Lent. Part of the celebration of this great saint is often a meal which includes meat, specifically corned beef. Inquiry has been made of whether in honor of the saint a dispensation might be granted from the obligatory day of abstinence.

In recognition of the custom of many to raise up the witness of Saint Patrick and its lasting impact, particularly families of Irish decent, I have decreed that those who participate in an event remembering Saint Patrick where meat is served are dispensed from the obligation of abstinence with the proviso that another form of penance be undertaken on that day.

For those who do not participate in such a memorial to Saint Patrick the day of abstinence remains as a sign of the penitential call of Lent.

Saint Patrick pray for us that we might experience a Lenten journey that leads to greater conversion and a deeper relationship with our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.