JEFFREY
By Appointment of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF STEUBENVILLE

Grant of Dispensation

The Catholic Church observes Fridays as penitential days, and the abstinence from eating meat on Fridays, especially the Fridays of Lent in the Church in the United States, is a hallmark of that Catholic practice. However, the current coronavirus pandemic may make that observation difficult for some people this year. While factors such as health conditions can mitigate one’s obligation to abstain from eating meat, it is important that there be great clarity during this time of pandemic, a time in which not only are matters of health involved but also concerns regarding access to food which could make it a burden for some of the faithful to abstain from eating meat.

Therefore, by virtue of canon 87 §1 of the Code of Canon Law, I, the undersigned Bishop of Steubenville, hereby dispense the faithful of the Diocese of Steubenville and any faithful physically present in the Diocese of Steubenville, from the obligation to abstain from eating meat on the Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent (Friday, April 3, 2020).

I strongly encourage the faithful who are not affected by concerns of health or food supply to abstain from eating meat on that day even though they are not bound to do so by virtue of this dispensation. Furthermore, I strongly encourage those who make use of this dispensation to perform some other act of penance on that Friday, including but not limited to prayers such as the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet, devoting time to read Sacred Scripture, almsgiving, and works of charity.

This dispensation is granted for Friday, April 3, 2020, only. As a matter of universal law, the normal requirements for abstinence and fasting on Good Friday (April 10, 2020), remain in effect (c. 1251).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Steubenville on the 30th day of March in the Year of Our Lord, 2020.

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton, D.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Steubenville

Very Reverend Bradley W. Greer, J.C.L.
Chancellor