



Decree

On October 10, the Holy See clarified a question posed by the USCCB's Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, whether the obligation to attend Holy Mass on a Holy Day of Obligation is transferred when the observance of the feast day is transferred due to a conflict in the liturgical calendar. The response was that the obligation indeed does transfer. Such a case occurs this year with the transfer of the patronal feast of the Immaculate Conception to December 9, 2024.

Since the previous understanding was that the obligation did not transfer, most publications indicate that there is no obligation to attend Mass for the Immaculate Conception this year. To avoid confusion and conflicts with parish schedules already planned, it seems fitting to lift the obligation in keeping with past practice.

Therefore, with this decree I hereby dispense the faithful of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, and all those who are present in the Diocese, from the obligation to attend Mass on December 9, 2024, the transferred Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Nevertheless, it is laudatory that pastors offer a Mass for the benefit of the faithful on this transferred Holy Day and the people of God are encouraged to take the opportunity to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Given at Rochester, Minnesota, on this seventh day of November, in the year of Our Lord 2024.

Handwritten signature of Robert Barron in black ink.

The Most Reverend Robert Barron
Bishop of Winona-Rochester

Handwritten signature of Michelle K. Gerlach in blue ink.

Chancellor