



DECREE OF PROMULGATION

ALTERING THE TIME FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS ON THE VIGILS OF SUNDAYS
AND OF HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION IN THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

WHEREAS by a decree dated January 25, 2010, the Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman, then Bishop of Erie, established as particular law for the Diocese of Erie that no Masses were to begin prior to 4:30 p.m. on the evenings preceding Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation;

WHEREAS the number of parishes requesting indulgences in order to be dispensed from that norm has increased, and these requests are in fact routinely granted, so that the norm is no longer effectively observed;

THEREFORE, having consulted with the Presbyteral Council in this regard, I hereby abrogate the norm contained in the paragraph 1 of the decree of January 25, 2010 establishing that evening Masses are not to begin prior to 4:30 p.m., and **I hereby replace it with the norm as particular law that evening Masses preceding Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation are not to begin prior to 4:00 p.m.**

FURTHERMORE, this norm applies to all Masses preceding Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, which intentionally includes Masses on Christmas Eve (cf. paragraph 3 of the decree of January 25, 2010).

All other norms contained in the decree of January 25, 2010 regarding the prohibition of multiple vigil Masses and prohibiting the celebration of the Easter Vigil prior to the time specified each year by the diocesan Bishop remain in full force (cf. paragraphs 2 and 4 of the decree of January 25, 2010).

I direct that this Decree be published and take effect immediately, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery
of the Diocese of Erie
on this 18th day of October, 2019

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

Christopher J. Singer

The Reverend Christopher J. Singer, JCL
Chancellor



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