



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICIES

(updated January, 2025)

At Our Lady of the Fields, your physical safety is our second highest priority (Eternal salvation is the first!) and we seek to provide a safe place for all even and especially in inclement weather. For the Safety of all on our campus, all groups, ministries, and activities are required to follow these policies and may not make any decisions to the contrary.

For the most part, our inclement weather policies follow Anne Arundel County Public Schools and Government but may not always align with them. The ultimate decision is based both on local weather and on the state of our facilities. There may be times when we close or cancel activities even if AACPS or Anne Arundel County Government has remained open. Check the parish website or call the office and listen to the weather-related prompts. Every attempt will be made to have decisions made by 7:00 am for morning activities and 3:00 pm for evening activities.

Pertinent websites:

Our Lady of the Fields: www.ourladyofthefields.org

Anne Arundel County Public School: <https://www.aacps.org/>

Anne Arundel County Government: <https://www.aacounty.org/>

Daily Mass

If AACPS are closed or have a delayed opening, the weekday morning Masses are cancelled; the Parish Office will open at 11:00 am. All Mass intention(s) will be rescheduled at the next available opportunities and the ones who requested the Masses will be notified by the Parish Office. Since calls are not made until around 6:00am, we are still working out how to handle cancellations for the 6:00am Mass. Until we can work out a viable solution, please be patient with us.

Morning Activities

If AACPS has a delay, all parish morning activities are cancelled; the Parish Office will open at 11:00 am. Any afternoon events will continue as scheduled unless otherwise notified.

Weekday Meetings/Events/Faith Formation

If AACPS is closed due to inclement weather, there will be no parish activities or Faith Formation. If AACPS closes early or cancels evening activities, Faith Formation and evening meetings are also cancelled.

Parish Office

If AACPS are closed or have a delayed opening, the parish office will open at 11:00 am. Beyond that, the parish offices follow the inclement weather policy for the Anne Arundel County Government (not Schools). If the Anne Arundel County Government offices are closed or close early for inclement weather, the parish office will also close. Even if the parish office is open, please call ahead if you have an appointment with one of our staff. Although the office may be open, individual staff members may not be able to come into the office. They will make every effort to notify anyone affected, but it's still best to call the office and check.

Weekend Meetings and Events/ Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Cancellations and delays for weekend meetings events will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If an event is scheduled to begin at 8:00 am we would hope to decide by 7:00 am. If an event is scheduled for the evening, we would hope to decide by 3:00 pm. Sometimes that is not possible, and we ask you please to check the parish website or call the parish office before setting out to Our Lady of the Fields.

Weekend Mass

Because attendance at weekend Mass is required by the universal Church, the standards for cancellation are much higher and are not determined by the policies of either AACPS or Anne Arundel County Government (and because both are already closed for the weekends). If the weekend Masses must be cancelled, it will be done in conjunction with other area parishes and with the consent of the Archbishop of Baltimore. This is very rare.

Whenever possible, decisions are made by 7:00 am for morning closings and delays, and by 3:00 pm for early closings, and announced soon after. Sometimes that is not possible, and we ask you please to check the parish website or call the parish office before setting out to Our Lady of the Fields.

Please do not travel if you feel unsafe or the roads near you are not passable. The obligation to attend Mass is commuted (relieved) if you cannot attend due to bad weather even if Mass has not been cancelled and no meeting is important enough to be unsafe.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the parish office at (410)923-7060 or by email at info@olfparish.com