



# ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

## Office of Communications and Planning

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Statement From Archbishop Carlson Regarding Flood Relief Assistance

**ST. LOUIS** – Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, released the following statement regarding the recent flooding in our region and the on-going response of the Archdiocese of St. Louis:

I have been fervently praying for those suffering due to the recent flooding in our city and state. As our region watched the flood waters rise to record heights, so too did we see the damage, loss, and suffering increase. We mourn for those who lost their lives. We know that many homes full of memories have been destroyed. Photos, heirlooms, and other keepsakes are lost. Businesses were devastated and will need extensive repairs. Yet, we are also thankful for the many homes, businesses, and lives saved through the bravery and dedication of emergency responders and volunteers.

Although the floodwaters have mostly receded, the needs are still very great. But our generosity must be greater. That is why I am directing all parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Louis to hold a special collection the weekend of January 16-17 to assist in recovery efforts through Catholic Charities. Financial assistance, rather than clothing or food, is the most needed resource at this time.

Catholic Charities of St. Louis is a coordinating organization in the disaster relief assistance effort. The role of Catholic Charities is to assist now with the relocation and other services for those affected by the flood, as well as sustained long-term disaster recovery. We will continue to work closely with all agencies and authorities in the coming days, weeks, and months to help restore lives and livelihoods.

Those most impacted by the flooding will be recovering long after the water has disappeared. It is my pledge that the Catholic Church will continue serving those in the impacted areas until these needs are met. This is our responsibility as Catholics, especially during this Year of Mercy.

Those seeking flood relief assistance should visit a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) in the coming days where representatives from numerous agencies, including Catholic Charities, will be present. Additional information, including information for those looking to volunteer or donate, can be found at [ccstl.org](http://ccstl.org).

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