



February 10, 2025

Dear Monsignor / Father,

Enclosed please find the **2026 Special Collections Schedule** for the Diocese of Erie. I would like to draw your attention to several things:

1. All collections are mandatory except the following:
  - a. **Food Bank Collection** (for Second Harvest Food Bank or another food bank – excluding Food for the Poor – if you are not serviced by Second Harvest)
  - b. **Priestly Education and Care Collection**
  - c. **Operation Rice Bowl** (technically not a collection but a charitable program)
2. The collection which is a part of the **Missionary Cooperative Plan** is a mandated special collection. The missionary is assigned by the Mission Office and the date is determined together by the pastor and missionary.
3. The **Collection for the Holy Land** is mandatory and should be taken up any time between Palm Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday inclusive.
4. An appeal for any collection at Mass should never replace the homily.
5. No pastor or administrator may schedule a new collection without the permission of the Bishop (see canon 1266 and *Diocesan Regulations for the Administration of Temporal Affairs*, no. 10.2).

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at (800) 374-3723 ext. 130 or (814) 824-1130 or [mcaulfield@eriercd.org](mailto:mcaulfield@eriercd.org). As always, thank you sincerely for your efforts on behalf of those in need. Be assured of my prayers.

In Christ,

*Maria G. Caulfield*

Maria G. Caulfield  
Assistant Chancellor

DIOCESE OF ERIE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS 2026

- Flexible Date..... **Priestly Education and Care Collection** (optional)
- January 1 to Ash Wed. .... **Food Bank Collection** (for Second Harvest or other food bank – excluding Food for the Poor – for parishes not serviced by Second Harvest) (optional)
- January 25..... **Help Spread the Faith Communications Collection** (supporting *Faith Magazine* and *Catholic Communications*)
- February 15 ..... **Catholic Services Appeal (Commitment Sunday)**
- Lent (February 18)..... **Operation Rice Bowl** (optional)
- March 29 – April 12 ..... **Collection for the Holy Land** (taken once between Palm Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday inclusive)
- May 3 ..... **Good Shepherd Collection**
- May 24..... **International Needs Collection** (combined collection for *Catholic Relief Services*, *Church in Central and Eastern Europe*, and *Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa*.)
- June 28..... **Collection for the Holy Father (Peter’s Pence)**
- July 19 ..... **National Needs Collection** (combined collection for *Catholic Home Mission Appeal* and *Black and Indian Home Missions*)
- August 16 ..... **Church in Latin America Collection**
- September 20 ..... **Catholic Education Collection**
- October 18..... **Mission Sunday Collection**
- November 15 ..... **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**
- December 13 ..... **Retirement Fund for Religious**
- (As arranged by Diocesan Mission Office).... **Missionary Cooperative Plan**