

Winter Driving Safety



It's that time of year again! We live in a part of the country that gets snow, sleet, and ice. Are you prepared for those conditions? Planning and preventative maintenance are important year-round-but especially when it comes to winter driving. So many of our parishes have administrators, support staff and volunteers driving on behalf of our churches and schools. Here are some helpful tips to get you there safely.

Plan Your Travel and Route

- Keep yourself and others safe by planning ahead before you venture out into bad weather.
- Check the weather, road conditions, and traffic.
- Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, such as a snow shovel, ice scraper, sand, jumper cables, food, water and blankets.
- Don't rush; allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely. Plan to leave early if necessary.
- Familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go, even if you use a GPS system, and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time.



On The Road

- Keep your gas tank close to full, even with a hybrid-electric vehicle. If you get stuck in a traffic jam or in snow, you might need more fuel than you anticipated to get home or to keep warm.
- The road behind an active snow plow is safer to drive on. If you find yourself behind a snow plow, stay behind it or use caution when passing.
- Drive slowly. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. On the road, increase your following distance enough so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.
- If road conditions are hazardous, avoid driving if possible. Wait until road and weather conditions improve before venturing out in your vehicle.

