



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON
VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

Please see today's update below and be assured we will keep you informed as we continue through this challenging time.

**Resumption of Public Masses starting Monday, May 25
(if local jurisdiction allows)**

Public Masses may resume starting Monday, May 25 within the Archdiocese of Washington in local jurisdictions that have lifted restrictions. For remaining jurisdictions that still have stay at home restrictions in place on May 25, resuming public Masses will wait until the restrictions are lifted. During the initial phase of our reopening, the faithful will continue to be dispensed from their obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. Therefore, it would be spiritually helpful to continue to live stream Masses for those who choose to remain at home, such as those particularly vulnerable due to age or pre-existing health conditions.

Please find linked [here](#) a letter from Archbishop Gregory to the priests.

So you can begin preparing, we also want to provide you with the following resources:

Linked [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish – ADW's guidelines for *Public Celebration of Mass and Holy Communion Outside of Mass*

Linked [here](#) – a video message from Archbishop Gregory you may share with your parishioners

Linked [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish – flyer of *What to Expect When Public Masses Start to Resume* you may share with your parishioners

Linked [here](#) – letter template from pastor to parishioners you can edit for your specific parish plan to share with your parishioners

The guidelines for *Public Celebration of Mass and Holy Communion Outside of Mass* are to help you make a plan that is specific to your church and worship environment.

Planning for how many parishioners can attend a given service will depend on the current guidance from your local jurisdiction and the size of your worship space.

For the District of Columbia, there is no guidance at this time for when a Phase I reopening will occur and the capacity that will be allowed.

For the State of Maryland, if you are able to resume public Masses on Monday, May 25, the total number of people will be limited to the people being socially distanced within the space. Additionally, the total number of people cannot exceed

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50% of the space's allowed capacity. Please note that households of people that live in the same home can sit together.

If you have questions or need assistance concerning your plan, please feel free to contact Fr. Martino Choi at choim@adw.org or Fr. Anthony Lickteig at lickteiga@adw.org.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website in response to the coronavirus is updated regularly with information, in English and Spanish, for you and the faithful available at adw.org/coronavirus, which includes a link to find a listing of live stream Masses and prayers available at adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/. The *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers are currently available online at cathstan.org and elpreg.org.

As ever, should you have questions or need assistance from my office or the Pastoral Center, please let us know. Please be assured of my prayers for you.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
Reverend Daniel B. Carson
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

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