



## REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

I write today to provide you updates. I will continue to keep you informed during this challenging time.

### **Area Re-Opening Status as of May 22, 2020**

You may have seen President Trump's press conference this afternoon with his message asking governors and local government leaders to allow houses of worship to open. While this might influence when local jurisdictions move into a phase one that haven't done so at this time, we are still required to follow the mandates of the local jurisdictions. We provide the current status of our local jurisdictions here below.

The state of Maryland is currently under a "[Safer at Home Advisory](#)" which permits limited re-opening of society under Phase One in most of the state beginning May 15, subject to local jurisdictions being allowed to maintain greater restrictions. At this initial stage under Governor Hogan's statewide [executive order](#), faith communities can resume religious services if their local jurisdiction allows and within the restrictions previously communicated about keeping social distancing and not to exceed 50% capacity in a space. The state has also issued voluntary [best practices recommendations](#) specifically for religious services, and the Archdiocesan guidelines have already taken these into account.

Maryland has created a website map which indicates the re-opening status in the state by county, which may be found [here](#). Following is the current status of the five counties within the Archdiocese:

St. Mary's County: Currently in stage one under the "Safer at Home Advisory." A county-specific [Roadmap to Recovery](#) is available. Up-to-date information for the county can be found [here](#).

Calvert County: Currently in [stage one](#) under the "Safer at Home Advisory." Up-to-date information for the county may be found [here](#).

Charles County: The county decided to extend the prior restrictions, [but it is scheduled](#) to institute stage one beginning May 29. Up-to-date information for the county may be found [here](#).

Prince George's County: The county decided to extend the prior restrictions but it has [announced](#) that it will move to a modified stage one beginning June 1, the

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specifics of which have not yet been released. Up-to-date information for the county may be found [here](#).

Montgomery County: The county decided to [extend](#) the prior restrictions. It has not yet announced when it might begin to re-open, but it has introduced a new [dashboard tool](#), with metrics to guide government decisions, which indicates that re-opening may be possible at the beginning of June. Up-to-date information for the county may be found [here](#).

In the District of Columbia, Mayor Bowser will make her decision about initial reopening next week, but she has stated that the District could begin a phased reopening for some sectors of society on May 29. Yesterday on May 21 there was a draft [proposed plan](#) which was put together to help guide the mayor in her decision. A summary of the plan is available [here](#). In the proposed plan Stage One, restrictions for religious services will not change from the current level of restrictions that are in place. However, as mentioned, this is not the Mayor's final plan. We expect the Mayor to issue the plan on Tuesday. Up-to-date information for the District may be found [here](#).

### **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](http://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/](http://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/). The [Catholic Standard](#) and the Spanish-language [El Pregonero](#) newspapers are currently available online at [cathstan.org](http://cathstan.org) and [elpreg.org](http://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