



## 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.

### **Maryland Catholic Conference Letter on Racial Justice**

Archbishop Gregory, along with Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, Wilmington Bishop W. Francis Malooly and six other Catholic bishops serving the state of Maryland have released a new letter on racial justice that is linked [here](#).

### **Update on Montgomery County**

Montgomery County will move to phase 2 on Friday, June 19 at 5 p.m. Indoor religious services will be allowed at what we calculate to be 25-30 percent capacity with social distancing (which the county describes in its plan as “one congregant/family per 200 sq. ft. of service space”).

### **Parish Social Gatherings Guidelines**

Some of you have inquired about what are the current guidelines for gatherings at a parish, such as for social gatherings or meetings in parish facilities. Here are the current guidelines from the jurisdictions:

Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties: Indoor social gatherings are at 50 percent capacity with social distancing. Outdoor social gatherings are no limit with appropriate social distancing. Food service may not include self-serve buffets, but may provide counter service, and staff must wear masks.

Prince George's County: Starting today at 5 pm, indoor social gatherings are at 25 percent capacity with social distancing. Outdoor social gatherings are limited to 250 persons with social distancing.

Montgomery County: When they advance to phase 2 on June 19 at 5 p.m., indoor social gatherings are at about 25-30 percent capacity with social distancing and with a maximum of 50 persons. Outdoor social gatherings are limited to 50 persons with social distancing.

For the State of Maryland, you can continue to monitor the statewide map, back to business guidance, and each county's website for the latest reopening status:

- <https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery/>
- <https://open.maryland.gov/backtobusiness/>
- <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/2630/COVID-19-Virtual-Resource-Center>
- <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/health-and-human-services/covid-19>
- <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus.html>
- <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Coronavirus>
- <https://www.stmarysmd.com/covid-19/updates/>

The District of Columbia: Indoor and outdoor social gatherings are limited to ten persons with social distancing. The District may advance to the next stage of reopening as early as Friday, June 19. There are no details yet as to what will be issued for gatherings, as well as for religious services.

All jurisdictions are asking organizations to take caution in gatherings and take every effort in any gathering to prevent the spread of the virus. Note that any large gatherings at this time may also draw attention.

### **Updated Status of Civil Marriage License Issuances**

Marriage license offices in the District of Columbia and Maryland were closed entirely at the onset of the coronavirus health emergency, but offices are able to issue licenses as set forth below:

In Maryland, the issuance of marriage license applications **has been expanded** and all state courts have begun remote processing of marriage licenses. Couples may submit signed marriage applications by mail, courthouse drop box, or email. Please see the revised **Marriage License Application** and **Marriage License Application Instructions**. Information pertaining to specific localities may be found as follows:

**Calvert** -- call 410-535-1600 ext. 2269

**Charles** -- call 301-932-3308

**Prince George's** -- call 301-952-3331

**St. Mary's** -- call 301-475-7844

**Montgomery** -- call 240-777-9460

The **D.C. Marriage Bureau** continues to operate **remotely** in receiving and processing marriage license applications, as well as requests for a video conference civil wedding. The application is available **here**. If the couple requires a marriage license for an emergency matter (examples given are health insurance, childbirth, immigration, etc.), they should contact the clerk's office at 202-879-1400 or at **emergencycertifiedcopies@dcsc.gov**.

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