



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 as we navigate this challenging time.

National Collection for The Catholic University of America

The USCCB designates the first or second Sunday in September for the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. In the Archdiocese of Washington, the scheduled date for this collection is **September 6, 2020**. This is the only National collection taken for higher education in the United States.

Please use and share these links in your parish communications to share with your community about the good work of **The National Collection for Catholic Education - Serving the Church and Nation**. This collection supports Catholic education at the university and students from this archdiocese who attend there, advancement of research that will serve parishes and dioceses throughout the country, service missions, and initiatives and training programs. The direct online giving form can be found **here**.

Also linked **here** is a video of Archbishop Gregory announcing a new initiative to assist students from the Archdiocese of Washington in receiving scholarships to attend The Catholic University of America.

Maryland Reopening Initial Stage Three

Maryland Gov. Hogan has issued a **new executive order** effective this Friday at 5 p.m., for the state to begin Reopening Stage Three, which will be implemented in multiple phases. As it relates to archdiocesan activities, the order allows indoor religious facilities to be open at 75 percent capacity (with social distancing), but it contains no limit on the number of people allowed at outdoor social gatherings, subject to directives of local health officials. Office workplaces are also not restricted from opening to the public under the order. Face coverings are required indoors, as well as outdoors when consistent six-foot distancing is not possible. Secretary of Health Neall has also issued a **new directive** regarding adult and youth sports gatherings and events.

Most importantly, the order empowers local jurisdictions to maintain greater restrictions except for the opening of non-public schools to in-person instruction. At present, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties have announced they will essentially reopen with the State to Stage Three. Montgomery County has indicated that it is reviewing the Governor's order and will remain in its modified Phase Two for now. Prince George's County will announce its intentions on Thursday morning.

September 2, 2020 5:54 pm

Some parishioners may express concern about coming to Mass with the increase in attendance limits, but a recent study by health experts, **Evidence-Based Guidelines to Celebrate Mass Safely**, linked [here](#), reports that “for Catholic churches following [safety] guidelines, no outbreaks of COVID-19 have been linked to church attendance.”

Further, Archdiocese of Washington guidelines for liturgy and parish activities continue to remain in place. Please continue to monitor the statewide map which indicates the re-opening status in the state by county, the “back to business” best practices 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/covid19/>
- <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Coronavirus>
- <https://www.stmarysmd.com/covid-19/updates/>

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 Pregoner* 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