



## Very Reverend Daniel B. Carson

Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

Dear Brother Priest,

I write today to provide you with updates. I will continue to keep you informed as we navigate this challenging time.

### Scrutinies

The Period of Purification and Enlightenment calls for the solemn celebration of the three scrutinies. These rites complete the conversion of the elect (catechumen only) and should therefore be celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, using the readings for these Sundays in the Lectionary Mass, Year A.

If, for pastoral reasons, the elect have concerns about attending the Sunday liturgy, or your group is too large to gather safely, the scrutinies can be celebrated during “convenient days during the week” (RCIA, 146). In every case, they should be celebrated in this sequence: the first scrutiny with the Gospel of the Samaritan woman; the second, the Gospel of the man born blind; the third with the Gospel of Lazarus (RCIA, 146).

To mark the distinct character of the scrutinies and to assist in social distancing protocols, a Penitential Rite can be celebrated with the candidates – those baptized individuals preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist. This is typically celebrated on the Second Sunday of Lent, but can be celebrated within a liturgy of the Word or at a convenient weekday liturgy.

Out of an abundance of caution, the celebrant should refrain from laying hands on each of the elect or candidates and offer the prayers with hands outstretched.

Should you have any questions, please be in touch with Sara Blauvelt at [blauvelts@adw.org](mailto:blauvelts@adw.org).

## Winter Weather

With below freezing temperatures expected in the upcoming days, I share with you the following recommendations from Catholic Mutual to possibly avoid frozen water pipes and procedures to employ in the event of such an occurrence in your buildings:

The following are some ways to help prevent freezing and thawing of pipes and the resulting damage during these extremely cold temperatures:

1. Unoccupied buildings with water/plumbing should be checked twice daily. Heat should be set to at least sixty degrees during these extremely cold temperatures.
2. Cabinets, closets or other enclosures can restrict the transfer of heat to pipes and plumbing, **especially on outside walls or in entranceways**. Leave faucets dripping and open doors/cabinets to allow air to circulate.
3. Temporary use of indoor space heaters and other non-fuel supplied heaters can be used to maintain building heat during a boiler or furnace repair. They can mitigate the extent of any potential damage to pipes and plumbing. Be sure to move flammables, combustibles and storage away from space heaters.
4. Have a plan in place in the event of a boiler or furnace malfunction, ideally having arrangements with an HVAC service provider to provide 24-hour service response.
5. Check for drafts and other areas of heat loss. Windows and doors that do not close tightly should be repaired to mitigate heat loss during these extreme weather conditions. Apply removable window caulk to temporarily seal window drafts. Keep light bulbs turned on near pipes and plumbing fixtures. The small amount of heat emitted from the light bulb can keep these pipes and fixtures from freezing.
6. If a frozen pipe bursts or there is another water loss – **turn off the main water supply and immediately contact a plumber or mechanical contractor**, then contact Catholic Mutual Group at 703-841-1214, ext. 100. For after-hours emergencies, please leave a message as they check/receive messages during non-business hours. You can also call staff mobile numbers, Frank Ward at 703-304-3429 or Emily Colangelo at 703-915-7181, or email at [ecolangelo@catholicmutual.org](mailto:ecolangelo@catholicmutual.org) or [fward@catholicmutual.org](mailto:fward@catholicmutual.org).

7. You **do not** have to wait to speak with Catholic Mutual before taking action to address emergency situations. Do contact Catholic Mutual as soon as you can, though, to report any loss. If you need emergency assistance, you can contact any one of the contractors linked [here](#). Let them know that you are under the Archdiocese of Washington and Catholic Mutual for priority service, and give them the contact names for Catholic Mutual. These companies will go to any geographical location in the Archdiocese. You can also contact your preferred contractor for emergency repairs; please have them get in touch with us as soon as possible.

### **Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website**

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see [adw.org/coronavirus](http://adw.org/coronavirus) for information related to the coronavirus, [adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/](http://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/) for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and [cathstan.org](http://cathstan.org) and [elpreg.org](http://elpreg.org) for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know.

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