



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.

Update on Mass Capacity for DC Churches

We're pleased to share with you that last evening we received a ruling in our favor in our case challenging the District of Columbia's restrictions on religious services. The federal district court ruled that the District's capacity limits of 25% or up to 250 persons, whichever is lesser, are unconstitutional under the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. As a result of this ruling, our churches in the District are no longer bound by either the 25% or the 250-person capacity limit. This ruling is effective immediately.

The Archdiocese's published guidelines for the Mass, linked [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish, last updated in October, remain in effect, along with the other requirements set forth in Section XI, Paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Mayor's most recent executive order linked [here](#). The District's requirements include no crowding inside or outside of churches, cooperation in the District's contact tracing efforts, masking, social distancing, wellness checks for Mass leaders, and other health and safety protocols that are consistent with the Archdiocese's own guidelines.

If you should have any questions, please contact Terry Farrell at 301-853-4507 or farrellt@adw.org; or Chris Anzidei at 301-853-5342 or anzideic@adw.org.

Livestream Link for Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass, which will be celebrated on Monday, March 29 at 2 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew, may be viewed at the following YouTube link: [Chrism Mass](#)

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see adw.org/coronavirus for information related to the coronavirus, adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-

[prayers/](#) for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and [cathstan.org](#) and [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