



**Very Reverend Daniel B. Carson**

Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

Dear Brother in Christ,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

**No “Two-for-One” Masses for Christmas or New Year’s**

This year Christmas falls on a Saturday. There is no “two-for-one” benefit of attending the Saturday night “vigil” Mass to fulfill Sunday’s Mass obligation. Christmas and Sunday (Holy Family) are two separate Mass obligations.

Please note that the Saturday night “vigil” Mass can fulfill the Sunday obligation if one has already attended a Christmas Eve Mass on Friday night or a Christmas Mass earlier in the day on Saturday. If one attends Christmas Mass earlier in the day on Saturday and then attends the “vigil” Mass on Saturday evening to fulfill Sunday’s obligation, you may hear the prayers and readings for Christmas twice.

So in making plans for Christmas, one must ask, “Which Mass will I attend for Christmas—a Mass on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas Day?” Then one must ask, “Which Mass will I attend for Sunday—a Mass on Saturday evening (after I have attended Mass on Christmas Eve or earlier on Saturday), or on Sunday itself?”

The same principle applies to the Solemnity that falls on the following Saturday, January 1: Attendance at a Saturday evening Mass will not “count” for both Mary, Holy Mother of God, celebrated on Saturday, and the Epiphany, celebrated on Sunday. These are two separate obligations.

A few years ago the Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship said, “the Church’s intention in extending the possibility of meeting Mass obligations through vigil Masses, while intended to make it easier to fulfill obligations, was never envisioned as a legal loophole, and, hence, separate obligations remain. Aside from canonical requirements, it would be hoped, of course, that Catholics foster a love for the Sacred Liturgy and hold a desire to celebrate the holy days as fully as is reasonably possible.”

## **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Celebrates World Priest Day**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter celebrates World Priest Day on October 24, 2021. Linked **here** is a prayer scroll filled with prayer intentions beginning on Friday, October 22nd through Sunday, October 24th. There are intentions from couples, individuals and children who have volunteered to pray for priests.

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

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see [adw.org/coronavirus](https://adw.org/coronavirus) for information related to the coronavirus, [adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/](https://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/) for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and [cathstan.org](https://cathstan.org) and [elpreg.org](https://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