



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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November 23, 2020

Dear Father,

May God bless you! I have an update about information we received late Friday afternoon.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops sent a decree issued by His Eminence Robert Cardinal Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. This decree allows priests to celebrate up to four Masses on Christmas Eve and four Masses on Christmas Day in order to accommodate more of the faithful with the proper physical distancing in place. This permission is granted for Christmas 2020 only.

As you recall in late October, I suspended the liturgical directive about the earliest time a vigil Mass can be held, allowing you to hold vigil Masses beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. I hope these two adaptations for Christmas 2020 will assist you.

Thank you for your continued good work and outreach during this COVID-19 pandemic.

As always, you are in my prayers.

Faternally yours in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph E. Kurtz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville