



## *Office of the General Secretary*

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Archbishop of Los Angeles  
*President*

**Monsignor Jeffrey D. Burrill, S.T.L.**  
*General Secretary*

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### **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Bishops

From: Reverend Monsignor Jeffrey D. Burrill, S.T.L., General Secretary *JDB*

Date: December 18, 2020

Subject: Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and the Epiphany

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Your Eminences and Excellencies,

In a memorandum of this past November 20, I transmitted to you a decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments that authorizes local Ordinaries in the United States of America to permit priests in their dioceses to celebrate up to four Masses on Christmas Eve and four Masses on Christmas Day. This permission was granted in view of the possible need to offer more Masses for the faithful due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was granted for 2020 only.

Through the courtesy of the Apostolic Nunciature, the Conference has now received another decree from the same Congregation, issued by His Eminence Robert Cardinal Sarah, Prefect, that authorizes local Ordinaries to permit priests also to celebrate up to four Masses on the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1) and on the Epiphany (observed in the United States on Sunday, January 3). As was the case with the Congregation's previous decree, the decision to grant these permissions rests with each local Ordinary.

Please find the Congregation's decree attached. Thank you for your attention to this memorandum.



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

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Prot. N. 597/20

## DECRETUM

Attentis condicionibus pandemia per orbem effusa inductis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice FRANCISCO tributarum, perlibenter concedimus ut Ordinarii locorum, perdurantibus causis quæ ad universale contagium v.d. *Covid-19* spectant, tempore Nativitatis Domini anni volventis tantum, celebrationem quattuor Missarum in die Nativitatis Domini, in die Sanctae Dei Genetricis Mariae necnon in Epiphania Domini permittere valeant presbyteris in suis dioecesibus commorantibus, quoties id pro bono fidelium necessarium videbitur, atque servatis semper de iure servandis, præsertim quoad præscripta in can. 951.

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex ædibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 16 mensis decembris 2020.

*Robertus Card. Sarah*

Robertus Card. SARAH  
*Præfectus*

+ *Arturus Roche*

✠ Arturus ROCHE  
*Archiepiscopus a Secretis*