

The Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See  
Bishop of Bridgeport

**DECREE FOR THE CELEBRATION  
OF CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES**

In virtue of the office entrusted to me, I, the Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, duly concerned with the spiritual welfare of the souls entrusted to me (c. 383 §1), having prayerfully considered the following:

Whereas, we are currently living in a time of pandemic and;

Whereas, new State health regulations have been promulgated by lawful civil authorities restricting attendance at religious gatherings and;

Whereas, the capacity to attend liturgical celebrations has been reduced, in accord with the size of our temples and holy places, because of the afore-mentioned conditions and;

Whereas, we are nearing the celebration of the Holy Days of the Nativity of the Lord and;

Whereas, our faithful are generally in need of more options to be offered by their pastors to attend the Christmas Holy Day celebrations and;

Whereas, the celebration of a Holy Day Vigil Mass is a lawful liturgical practice normally taking place on the Vesper of the Holy Day no earlier than 4:00pm;

**ESTABLISH THAT**

In the Diocese of Bridgeport, the celebration of Christmas Vigil Mass in all lawfully established places of worship may begin at 3:00 P.M. for the year 2020. This provision is to be applied at the discretion of the parish priest or rector of the place of worship governed by him.

With this provision, it is my desire and hope that each parish priest or rector ensure that enough Masses are celebrated in order to allow the reasonable accommodation of all the faithful who wish to personally attend a Holy Day Mass for Christmas.

Given this 23 day of October of 2020, at the Catholic Center, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend Robert M. Kinnally  
Chancellor