

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the second week of Advent, we greet you.

The following is the plan for the remaining weeks of **Advent and Christmas**. We ask for your understanding and patience regarding the decision to not have in person Masses. Even though other local parishes are having in person Masses, we believe it safest to not do so because of the **significant rise in Covid-19 cases and deaths**. We long to have you once again in the Parish Center, praising and worshipping together. Those in health care have shared with us that seeing the faces of those who struggle with the pandemic and seeing many families as they have had to say their final goodbyes to loved ones who would have lived another 10, 20 or more years is heartbreaking. Parishioners have voiced a longing to have in person Masses and also parishioners have sincerely shown gratitude because of the very difficult decisions that have been made, keeping the health and safety of all in mind. While it is impossible to please everyone, please know decisions have not been made without much thought, concern, and prayer.

- **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, Mass at the Church of St. Joseph: live streamed-recorded Mass at 9:00 am on December 8th.
- **Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe**,: pre-recorded Mass at St. Joseph on December 12th.
- **Advent Reconciliation Service** for both Saint Joseph and Saint John the Baptist parishes on Saturday, December 19th at 2:00 pm at Saint John the Baptist Parish Center, with general absolution. This will take place via radio transmission out to your parked cars. This service will also be recorded and uploaded. (Note: There will not be Reconciliation Services on December 16th or December 17th).
- The **Christmas Eve Mass** will take place at 3:00 pm at St. John the Baptist Parish Center. It will be transmitted via radio to your parked cars, with distribution of Holy Communion and will also be live streamed and recorded. We encourage as many as possible to watch the Mass online, to make the parking lot manageable. Fr. Jerome will remain until 4:30 pm for anyone wishing to drive up for Holy Communion after having watched the Mass online.
- The **Christmas Day Mass** at the Church of St. Joseph will be live streamed and recorded at 8:30 am on Christmas Day from Saint Joseph. Following the 8:30 am Mass, you are invited to come to the Saint Joseph church to receive Holy Communion. Fr. Jerome will be distributing Holy Communion until 10:30 am.
- The **Worship Aid** for the Mass of Christmas will be available.
- David Orzechowski of the Church of Saint Joseph plans to prepare two recordings of seasonal **meditative, music**, one for Advent and one for Christmas. The Advent one will be available soon to view online.

- For the **Feast of the Holy Family**, the weekend of December 26/27, there will be a live streamed, radio broadcasted Mass at Saint John the Baptist Parish Center parking lot for both parishes at 8:30 am. Holy Communion will be distributed.
- The **Mass for New Year's Day, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**, will be livestreamed from Saint Joseph at 10:00 am and available for later viewing.

Additional Information

- The parish bulletin for the weekends of December 20th and 27th will be a combined bulletin.

Our sincere and heartfelt thoughts and prayers for you and your families.

Blessings,

Fr. Jerome, Tess Koltes and Julie Ortloff

Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendor to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life.

(Entrance Antiphon for Friday of the First Week of Advent)