



Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Please take a moment to skim the following important information about Christmas Masses - **especially if you have not signed up yet**. We want you to have a positive experience this Christmas - but like most things this year, it requires a little preparation (see our [Christmas Mass Guidelines](#) for more info). And with banners now going up outside our churches, your time and location options may dwindle for in-person participation.

In this Newsletter:

- Which Masses are Available *Online* or *In-Person*, and Which are *Full*?
- What If I Come on Christmas *Without* a Reservation?
- What Will Our PWC "Drive-In" Christmas Mass Be Like?
- Music Director at St. Mary Tests Positive
- Reminder to Dress Warmly for Church

Christmas Mass Reservations Filling Up Quickly...

If you are planning to attend a Christmas Mass in person or by Drive-in, I hope you have made reservations as limited seating (and parking) are filling up - especially on Christmas Eve! Remember our time changes and the **new Noon Mass** Christmas Day. **As of Friday evening**, this is the status of each Mass *time* and *location*:

Christmas Eve - 3:00 PM

St. Martha - Upstairs: FULL; Downstairs*: 18 seats left; Drive-In: 24 seats left
St. Mary - Upstairs: FULL; Downstairs*: 47 seats left; Drive-In: 38 seats left

Christmas Eve - 5:00 PM

St. Martha - Upstairs: 8 seats left; Downstairs* & Drive-In: both still available
St. Mary - Upstairs: FULL; Downstairs* & Drive-In: both still available

Christmas Mass During the Night - 12 Midnight

St. Mary - Inside & Drive-In: both still available

Christmas Day - 8:00 AM

St. Martha - Inside & Drive-In: both still available

Christmas Day - 10:00 AM

St. Mary - Inside & Drive-In: both still available

Christmas Day - 12 Noon

St. Mary - Inside & Drive-In: both still available

*Note: thanks to the LaSalette priests, we now have **priests for downstairs Masses at both churches** (*replacing* our plan to video stream from upstairs).

To see up-to-the-minute availability and [signup for a Christmas Mass](#), please visit our website today!

Which Masses Will Be Online?

We will be streaming several Masses from each Parish online, but the ones that will be best to watch are the **3pm and 5pm on Christmas Eve** - which will also be available to view anytime after that.

Please note: *St. Martha* Masses will be on the [St. Martha Facebook page](#), *St. Mary* Masses on [St Mary Facebook page](#), and we are still testing if we can stream *both* churches to our [PWC YouTube channel](#) at the same time (say a prayer for our videography volunteers!) Remember, our main website www.pwc.church also has links to all of these viewing platforms.

What Happens to Those Who Come on Christmas *Without Reservations?*

While we strongly recommend reservations (or at least checking to see which Masses are already full), **others will be welcomed in whatever manner we can safely offer.** However, *please have realistic expectations:* we can *not* allow more people in the church than is safe under pandemic conditions. Therefore, **if indoor seats are all reserved or filled, the church doors may be locked and the only option will be to participate in the "Drive-In" Christmas Mass, so bring a smart phone or tablet** with cellular connection (and read the next heading below). At least this way you can receive Communion and no one will be completely turned away from Mass on Christmas.

What Will Our Version of a "Drive-In" Christmas Mass Be Like?

Because we will have indoor *and* "Drive-In" experiences of Mass simultaneously, we have to do it *a little different than you might expect.* First, **you have to bring a smart phone or tablet with a cellular connection** (no WiFi service available), so *data charges may apply.* If all works as planned, you will be watching the *Live* Mass from inside your church on our FaceBook page or YouTube channel (instructions will be emailed ahead of time to those signed-up for the Wait List/Drive-In). Second, **during the Communion procession, you will walk from your car to the canopy outside the church** where someone will be Ministering Communion. Regrettably, we **cannot** bring Communion to you *at your parking space* due to limitations of time and distance. However, if someone is unable to safely walk to the canopy during Communion time, you can wait until the end of Mass and then drive to the canopy for someone to give you Communion in your car. Please be patient as this may take some time to accomplish, but we want you to be able to receive Communion at Christmas.

St. Mary Parish Music Director Tests Positive

A disappointment this Christmas is that we will be missing the music of Jillian Carelli, Director of Music Ministries at St. Mary, as she caught Covid from someone outside of her church ministries. Please join us in praying that her symptoms to remain mild and she makes a speedy recovery. Meanwhile we are extremely grateful to our music ministers from St. Martha Parish and some beyond our collaborative who are working extra Masses to make sure we will have the music needed for a truly joyful Christmas liturgy!

A Friendly Reminder: The Importance of Fresh Air in Church and Dressing Warmly

In addition to sanitizing surfaces after each use, fresh air is also an essential part of minimizing the aerosols we breathe. Even in colder weather, **we must continue to allow some fresh air in whenever people are gathered in church - so please dress warmly because some of the windows will be left partly open.** As people leave, fans are used to replace the air in the room, then the empty church is sealed to warm that air before we open up for the next celebration.

On behalf of our priests, deacons and the whole Pastoral Team, have a joyful, safe, and hope-filled Christmas this year!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Joe

