

Dear Parish Family, and to all visitors:

Greetings to you all during these final days of Advent! With Christmas upon us I wanted to put out a brief update concerning Covid prevention protocols for Christmas Masses and going forward:

1). With infections on the rise we are encouraging all those who plan to attend Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day...and Sunday....to wear masks: particularly if you have not been vaccinated.

2). Those who are feeling unwell or have conditions that compromise your health in some way...we encourage you to remain home and participate in the Christmas Liturgy via television (EWTN for example) or online (The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception) or (our Bishop's Mass at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More) are good options for live streamed Masses...check out their websites for times; and please remember that those who are sick or have health concerns are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass;

3). We will be discontinuing the exchange of the "sign of peace" until further notice;

4) For the distribution of Holy Communion the priests, and those assisting as Eucharistic Ministers, will use disinfectant gel on their hands, wear masks, and use disinfectant wipes for their fingers (should they distribute to a person on the tongue)...these were all protocols that we previously used;

I encourage everyone to try and spread out over all the Mass time options we are offering....particularly plan to attend something other than the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve....which is always greatly overcrowded: if you have great anxiety about crowds, etc....be sure to avoid the 4:00pm Mass: we will have limited overflow seating only in Fellowship Hall.

I hope everyone will be charitable, prudent, patient and safe as we enter into celebration of Christmas and the Christmas Season!

Blessings to you all;

Fr. Kevin Larsen
Pastor, St. John the Apostle Catholic Church