



Saint James' Parish of Gouverneur  
Saint Hubert's Parish of Star Lake  
Sacred Heart Parish of Edwards

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Dear Friends,

While it may seem early, even a bit odd, especially in Church circles, to begin conversations about Christmas planning, with the ongoing battle with COVID-19, we have no choice. Mass attendance remains diminished in light of the virus, about 40-50% of our normal, and so we are anticipating approximately the same ratio of attendees for Christmas Masses.

Given the typical inflation of numbers for our celebration of the Lord's Nativity, even 40-50% attendance rate will be a challenging number to accommodate in light of the restrictions currently in place for religious gatherings (50% capacity and social distancing). That being the case, we are planning to increase the number of Masses, bringing in a retired priest to assist, and implementing a pre-registration process for the Christmas Masses among our three parishes. It is our hope and desire that by doing so we can accommodate most, if not all, who wish to celebrate the Nativity by going to Mass, while still being aware that some, for personal reasons, age or due to compromised health may not feel comfortable coming to Mass.

The Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows:

**Christmas Eve:**

4:00pm at St. James, Gouverneur *w/ livestream into the school gym for overflow seating*  
4:00pm at Sacred Heart, Edwards (*Visiting Priest*)  
6:00pm at St. Hubert's, Star Lake (*Visiting Priest*)  
7:00pm at St. James, Gouverneur *w/ livestream into the school gym for overflow seating*

**Christmas Day:**

9:00am at St. James, Gouverneur  
9:00am at St. Hubert's, Star Lake (*Visiting Priest*)

*Pre-registration for the Christmas Masses will be required.* Pew configurations will be modified to seat families together (family names will be on the pews) and maximize our capacity while still being faithful to social-distancing requirements. Masks will be required. In between Masses the Churches will be sanitized and ventilated (as much as possible).

We are in unprecedented times, to say the least. Your patience, understanding and cooperation with these efforts is very important and **greatly** appreciated. We look forward to celebrating, joyfully, the birth of our Savior, Jesus, *who has saved us from our sins.*

In Christ,

*Fr. Alan*

**Registration Deadline: Sunday, December 6, 2020**