

Dear friends,

There is a wonderful story about a store owner who was doing some last minute Christmas shopping with his young son when he met another store owner with whom he had been friends for some time. The two of them exchanged greetings and spoke with each other about what a financially profitable season it had been for their respective stores. The small boy overheard his father say, *“This has been the best Christmas ever.”*

As the store owners parted company, the father and son continued their shopping, but the father noticed his son had become very quiet. He inquired about his son’s silence. His son replied, *“Dad, you just told Mr. Johnson that this was the best Christmas ever.”*

His dad replied, *“I did, son. The economy is great, and people are really spending.”*

The son replied, *“Well, Dad, I always thought the first Christmas was the best one.”*

During this Christmas season, which has been preceded by one of the most difficult times in our nation with this global pandemic, we need to remember what we are celebrating: the anniversary of the most wondrous moment in human history when God became man in Bethlehem. The first Christmas was the best because God came to save us. This gives us the greatest hope! What a gift for all of us! Merry Christmas! God bless you and all your loved ones.

CHRISTMAS INFORMATION:

With the Covid curfew still in effect, we have decided to cancel our Christmas Midnight Mass this year. Here is the revised Christmas schedule:

CHRISTMAS EVE: 2:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. Family Masses; 7:00 p.m. Spanish Family Mass—**OUTDOORS** in North Parking Lot

CHRISTMAS DAY: 6:00, 7:00, 9:00 a.m. Masses (**OUTDOORS** in North Parking Lot); 11:00 a.m. Mass (**CHURCH: LIVE STREAMED** to patio and homes); 1:00 p.m. Spanish and 5:00 p.m. (**OUTDOORS** in North Parking Lot)

To accommodate those who have compromised health systems but who still want to participate at our Christmas Masses, we have added two transmitters to broadcast the Masses to people sitting isolated in their cars in the parking lot. In this way, they can hear and watch the Mass. Then, after Mass, they can drive to the west side of the Church (patio side) and receive Holy Communion.

- The frequency for broadcasting from the Church (11:00 am) is 97.1 FM
- The frequency for broadcasting from the parish hall to the parking lot (all other Masses—English and Spanish) is 89.7 FM

OTHER CHRISTMAS INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: We invite you to join our Master Chorale Christmas concert on Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. You can watch this concert live streamed on YouTube St Rose of Lima Music Ministry (please subscribe to our page before the concert):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4W2mflGM1hEas3Brzeo1bw>

CHRISTMAS PHOTOS IN CHURCH FOR YOUR

FAMILY: Please bring your family to view and take family photos with the beautiful Christmas Nativity scene and decorations in the Church on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 from 10 a.m.—4:00 p.m. We ask you to sanitize your hands and self-distance as you enter the

Church from the west side door (pews will be blocked off) and exit from the east side door. You can pause and take photos in front of the Nativity scene or enter the sanctuary and take a family photo in front of the altar and Christmas trees.

Our Spanish Community also can view and take family photos with the beautiful Christmas Nativity scene and decorations in the Church after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

Thank you to all who have been supporting St. Rose of Lima during this pandemic. For all those who have not been able to attend Mass personally because of the virus, I would ask you to remember to support the church financially. Our collections have been down about \$2000 each Sunday for the last 9 months. We have cut every unnecessary expense to stay within our budget, but lately we are running short. So, I ask you to be as generous as you can at Christmas to offset the shortage by sending by mail your weekly donation or by dropping your donation by the rectory. Thank you ever so much.

For all those who are looking to purchase an Advent Wreath for your home or religious Christmas gifts, the Church gift shop in the vestibule of the Church will be open Monday to Friday from 5-8pm; on Saturday after 8:30 am Mass; and on Sunday after all the morning Masses.

Christmas is quickly approaching: Be sure to prepare for Christ's coming to you by going to Confessions. Monday and Wednesday: 9:00—10:00 AM on west side patio of the Church. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 4:00—5:00 PM on west side of the Church. Saturday: 3-5 p.m. in front of parish hall. December 24, 2020, Christmas Eve: 9:00—11:00 a.m. in front of the parish hall.

THE CONFESSIONS AND MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 19-20, 2020:

Saturday Confessions: 3:00—4:45 pm (in front of parish hall)

Saturday Masses: 5:00 pm (north parking lot) & 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass (north parking lot).

Sunday Masses: 6 am, 7 am, 9:00 am (north parking lot), 11:00 am (in Church: live streamed to the patio and homes), 1:00 pm Spanish and 5:00 p.m. (north parking lot)

For all Outdoor Weekend Masses, people can make ONE OF TWO choices:

- They can sit in their cars in the south parking lot and watch and listen to the Mass on their radios (the frequency for broadcasting from the Church (11:00 am) is 97.1 FM & the frequency for broadcasting from the parish hall to the parking lot (all other Masses—English and Spanish) is 89.7 FM OR
- They can bring their beach chairs (and umbrellas, if necessary) and sit in designated areas on the north parking lot.
 - a. Because of the cold weather, be sure to wear a heavy coat.
 - b. If you join us for Mass in the north parking lot, please sanitize your hands as you enter through the gate into the parking lot.
 - c. Be sure to wear a mask (masks will be provided, if you don't have one).
 - d. Maintain social distancing of 6' from other people.
 - e. At Holy Communion time, the parishioners seated in north parking lot can come in lines to receive Holy Communion—always keeping 6 feet between you and the person in front of you.
 - f. People seated in cars can join the communion lines or, after Mass, drive through and receive Holy Communion.

The public outdoor Masses will be short. There will be no music, hymn books, or missalettes. The homily will be brief. If your health is in any way compromised, especially our senior citizens, it might be best for you to view the live stream Mass at home or sit in your car and listen to the Mass on radio.

DAILY MASS

Monday—Friday: 8:30 am (in Church live streamed to patio) and 5:30 pm (outdoor on west side of Church)

DAILY CONFESSION SCHEDULE (outside):

Monday and Wednesday: 9:00—10:00 AM on west side of the Church
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 4:00—5:00 PM on west side of the Church

IF HEALTH IS COMPROMISED, THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS PHYSICALLY

Please note that Archbishop Jose Gomez's dispensation of the Sunday Mass obligation is still in effect. Any person, who does not feel comfortable or safe attending Mass, is not required to attend Mass physically. In fact, anyone, who is not well or is in a high-risk group (those 65 years of age or older as well as those with preexisting medical conditions), should NOT yet return to Mass. We will live stream our Sunday 9 AM Mass in English and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish for those at home.

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS OF INFORMATION

The Beauty of the Mass: We continue with the next installment of “The Beauty of the Mass.” **This week we complete the explanation of the Entrance Rite of the Mass.**

“Current Event” Check out Msgr. Charles Pope’s homily from last Sunday titled: **“Sweet, Beautiful, Soul-Saving Joy.”** It will lift your hearts!

St. Rose of Lima Christian Service and the Knights of Columbus would like to thank you for your incredible generous response for our Christmas Food and Toy Baskets for our needy families. They were overwhelmed by your goodness.

Votive Candles: Votive Candles are available for purchase at the rectory or in the Mother Cabrini Gift Shop in the Church vestibule. Since Governor's Newsom's restrictions are still in effect, once a candle is purchased, a priest can bless the candle(s) and a staff member will take the candle(s) to the Church, light the candle(s) and place them in the candles holders in front of the Blessed Mother or Sacred Heart Shrines. The sale of our votive candles helps fund the Msgr. Sylvester Ryan Scholarship Fund.

For any Baptism, Marriage, or Funeral, please contact the rectory (805-526-1732) to make arrangements.

For any sick calls, please call the rectory: 805-526-1732

Always know that we are praying for you, especially those who can't join us physically because of age or compromised health issues. May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Shea