



Preparing for Christmas

Covid-19 and Omicron Virus Recommendations

As we prepare for the Christmas season, we anticipate many people and families celebrating at our parishes. It is a good idea to ensure that our facilities are prepared for those who are coming. Parishioners should be informed of precautions being taken to make them feel comfortable in attending.

The following is a list of ideas that may be helpful in your parish. Pastors, and parish staff need to determine the best course for their particular community.

Before

Parishioners should be reminded that larger crowds attend liturgy for Christmas. Social distancing may be difficult at high volume Christmas Masses. Parishioners could be encouraged to attend Christmas Masses that normally have lighter attendance.

Masking is optional but strongly recommended for those who are not vaccinated and for those who are high risk.

Hand sanitizer and masks could be made available at the entrances of the church.

The earliest time for Mass on Christmas Eve is 4 pm.

Notify parishioners when Masses will be livestreamed. Please remember it is NOT permitted to record a Christmas Mass before December 25, but once it is livestreamed, it may remain posted on the parish website for later viewing.

During

Priests may wear masks during the consecration and cover the elements.

Clergy, ministers, and members of the assembly always have the option of wearing masks for the entire liturgy.

Ordained and lay ministers of Communion should wear masks and sanitize hands before distributing Communion.

After

Churches should consider sanitizing facilities between Masses when able to do so.

Because of the new variants of the virus, please keep monitoring developments and updated public guidelines carefully. We want to have a safe and holy Christmas season as we welcome all to our parishes.



Blessings for Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

For questions, please call the Worship Office 973-497-4345
