

Dear Parishioners of St. Paul:

Thank you to all who filled out the Christmas Mass survey. It was very instrumental in developing the Mass schedule that you see below. The results of the survey are summarized on the other side of this sheet. This schedule is aggressive in its scope which is fueled by our desire to provide as many as possible the opportunity to attend Christmas Mass while providing a safe and comfortable space for you to do so. *Your cooperation with the procedures outlined below the schedule will help us do that.* You have my thanks in advance for your cooperation. - Fr. Joe

2020 Christmas Mass Schedule - We will offer 15 different Masses at seven (7) different times in three (3) different locations. Masses will be celebrated in St. Paul Church (7), St. Paul School Gym (5) and Sacred Heart Church (3). The Masses in the gym will NOT be live streamed, but will have a priest in the gym celebrating the Mass. There will be four Mass times on Christmas Eve at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. On Christmas Day Masses will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12 Noon. St. Paul Church Hall will serve as an overflow (that is if the church and gym are both full) with the Mass being live streamed and would include the distribution of Holy Communion at the appropriate time in the Mass. The chart below indicates the locations where Masses will be celebrated in each time slot. All of the Masses celebrated in St. Paul Church will be live streamed.

2020 St. Paul Parish Christmas Schedule

The number next to each location is the capacity allowed.

Mass Day & Time/Location	St. Paul Church 100	St. Paul Gym 80	Sacred Heart 50	St. Paul Hall 44
Christmas Eve 1:00 PM	w/ Priest	w/ Priest	w/ Priest	Live Stream *
Christmas Eve 3:00 PM	w/ Priest	w/ Priest	w/ Priest	Live Stream *
Christmas Eve 5:00 PM	w/ Priest	w/ Priest		Live Stream *
Christmas Eve 10:00 PM	w/ Priest			Live Stream *
Christmas Day 8:00 AM	w/ Priest			Live Stream *
Christmas Day 10:00 AM	w/ Priest	w/ Priest	w/Priest	Live Stream *
Christmas Day 12:00 Noon	w/ Priest	w/ Priest		Live Stream *

* Includes distribution of Holy Communion at regular time in the Mass.

Procedure for Coming to Christmas Mass - Because of the limited capacity that we have in each location **admittance to the Christmas Masses will require a ticket.** This is being done to ensure that those who have signed up to come to Mass will not have to be turned away at the door because we have reached capacity. It is incumbent upon us to limit the number of people who are in church or the gym so as to provide as safe an atmosphere as possible. Christmas Masses tend to bring more people to church than on average and some who are not in regular contact with the parish. In addition, though we have asked and urged everyone to sign up weekly for the Mass they are attending, that has not been happening often times with actual attendance 33 to 50 % more than the number signed up. We cannot afford for that to happen on Christmas. We do not want to turn anyone away, but I especially do not want to turn away someone who signed up and who is here faithfully. Therefore, the following procedure has been put into place:

1. To attend Christmas Mass you **MUST** sign up on the parish web site or by calling the office.
2. **Color coded tickets will then be issued that is location and time specific.**
3. Tickets will be able to be picked up in the office after Dec. 1 or we can mail them to you.
4. No tickets will be mailed after December 18th.
5. After December 18th all tickets must be picked up in the Parish Center by December 23rd.
6. The Parish Center will be closed on Christmas Eve.

See the reverse side for a summary of the results from the Christmas Mass survey.

Christmas Mass Survey Results - We had 368 responses to the survey with 86% (318) indicating that they planned on attending Christmas Mass. These respondents indicated that at least 815 people would be attending the Christmas Masses. Of these 583 would prefer to attend on Christmas Eve and 176 on Christmas itself. Others (56) indicated either/both or left it blank. On Christmas Eve the overwhelming majority (49%) expressed a desire to attend the earliest Mass with another 35% interested in the next two time slots. Very few (14 or 2%) preferred a true Midnight Mass while about 15% would like a later evening Mass. On Christmas Day, the 176 was relatively evenly spread out over the morning time slots with very few (7 or 4%) expressing an interest in the late afternoon or evening Mass on Christmas Day. We can conjecture that there are likely some who plan on attending, but did not return a survey, and others, because they do not have regular contact with the parish, were not aware of the survey. The schedule that appears on the other side of this sheet allows 1,200 people to attend Mass with a priest celebrating it and about another 300 via streaming in the church hall.

**Join us in person or virtually
on Saturday, December 5th following the 4 p.m. Mass for**

**A Live and Virtual 4th Annual Lighting
of the Parish Green/Christmas Concert/Greccio**

In these times as we deal with limited gatherings of people we had to re-think how to do some of our Christmas celebrations. The choir has not been able to gather together since March and choirs are permitted to sing inside. The Lighting of the Parish Green has been very successful in its first three years. A Franciscan Christmas tradition is an enactment of the first Christmas resembling what St. Francis of Assisi did in the little town of Greccio in Italy on Christmas Eve 1223. So we are going to try to combine these three events into one following the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 5th. It will be conducted outside, but will be live streamed so that should the weather not cooperate those who come to the 4 p.m. Mass could watch it and participate inside church. Likewise, everyone could also watch from home. We estimate that the program will be between 30 - 45 minutes. The walkways will be lighted with the luminaries and the program will include some of our youth acting out the Birth of the Lord and will include Christmas carols. The evening will culminate with the Lighting of the Parish Green and the Christmas Tree. We will also have a new Nativity Scene set up on the Parish Green this year. In order for your luminary to be printed in the program it must be received by December 1st.

