

Christmas Eve/Day Masses 2020

St. John the Beloved Disciple Church

These are the policies and procedures that will be in place and followed for Christmas Eve/Day Masses, December 24/25, 2020 at St. John the Beloved Disciple Church.

Our Hope and Goal

We want to provide a celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior as joyful and meaningful as possible this year.

We want to provide a healthy and safe environment for all participants in our Christmas Masses and these precautions and restrictions are designed to do this. No system is perfect, but we intend to do our best to have a safe and healthy environment.

First Considerations

You can assist us in providing a safe and healthy environment in Church for Christmas Masses this year by following these requirements:

- If you are feeling sick or have any possible Covid 19 symptoms, **STAY HOME!**
- If your health makes you at “HIGH RISK” for exposure to Covid 19 **STAY HOME!**
- If you have recently been exposed to someone tested positive for Covid 19 **STAY HOME!**

We will be Live Streaming Christmas Masses from St. John the Beloved Disciple of our Christmas Masses. Better for you to stay home and healthy rather than risk exposure to the Covid 19 virus.

Basic Church Requirements at Christmas Masses

We have these basic requirements for all present at the Christmas Eve/Day Masses. These are essential for the health and safety of others.

- **Everyone is to maintain “Safe Distancing” – a minimum of six (6) feet separation from others at all times.** No social gatherings in Church before, during or after the Christmas Masses.
- **Everyone is to wear face masks at all times.** Only very young children, two years or younger are exempt. We have face masks available for any needing one.
- We encourage you to wash your hands and use hand sanitizers.

All these requirements are for your safety and the safety of others.

Christmas Eve/Day Masses at St. John the Beloved Disciple 2020

December 24, 2020	Christmas Eve	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
December 25, 2020	Christmas Day	9:00 am

Reservations Required – No Admittance without a Reservation

Reservations are required for all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. No one will be admitted to any Christmas Eve/Day Mass without a reservation.

How to Make Reservations

Christmas Eve/Day Mass reservations must be made by calling the Parish Office (636-296-8061, ext. 4). We begin to accept reservations starting Monday, November 2, 2020, 9:00 am. Reservations can be made Monday through Thursday between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Reservations will also be accepted on Signup Genius. We will send out Sign-Up Genius by our Constant Contact Email Blast. If you are not signed up to receive our email blast, please go to our [website: stjohnimperial.org](http://stjohnimperial.org) and click on Constant Contact Email Sign-Up on the right side of the page.

When making reservations we need the individual names of every member of your family/group. If this includes children, we need their ages so we can provide sufficient space for your family/group.

When we have reached full capacity for a given Mass, then this Mass is closed to others. We will take names for a waiting list, but cannot guarantee you will be able to come to this Mass.

If there are any changes to your reservation, please notify immediately the Parish Office. Once a Mass is filled, we cannot accept an increase in your family/group size, but if your group becomes smaller, this may permit others to attend.

Spaces permitting, we will continue to accept reservations up to Wednesday, December 23, 2020, 12:00 noon, (CST).

Seating Arrangements for Christmas Masses

There are a limited number of spaces available for seating in Church. These are determined by the need to maintain the six (6) foot "Safe Distancing" requirement. Our goal is to seat attendees safely distanced from others. With that in mind, we will handle seating in this way:

- Seating will be assigned. Given the different sizes of family groupings, this is the most efficient way to get the maximum number into each Mass safely.
- You will not be able to claim your customary place in Church,
- Spaces needed for attendees will be determined by the size of the group:
 - One Space - individual person – married couple – couple with small child
 - Two Spaces - family group including 3-5 individuals
 - Three Spaces - family group including 5-8 individuals
 - Four Spaces - entire pew – 9-12 individuals
 - Groups of 12 or more will have to be divided into smaller groups
- Given the size of family groups attending, we have to assign seating to maximize attendance and maintain "Safe Distancing".

Arriving at Church for Mass

We advise you to come early to Church prior to the Mass you attend. It will take time to get everyone settled into their assigned place. This is especially important for larger family groups. Doors will be open for the masses at these times:

- Christmas Eve – 3:00 pm Mass - Doors Open at 2:15 pm
- Christmas Eve – 5:00 pm Mass - Doors Open at 4:30 pm
- Christmas Eve – 9:00 pm Mass - Doors Open at 8:15 pm
- Christmas Day – 9:00 am Mass - Doors Open at 8:15 am

We will need time prior to Mass to ensure that Church has been cleaned and sanitized.

A Final Word

Christmas Eve/Day is one of the most important feast days of the year. We want to make this both a safe and special day for all attending. Your patient cooperation with these requirements will help us achieve this goal.

Our prayers this year are for your continued health and that you have a blessed and joyous celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessing and Peace!

Fr. Rich