



A Guide to Returning to Parish Operations and Ministry

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EDITION

EVENT OR INITIATIVE	RESTRICTIONS
Additional Christmas Eve Masses	Yes. If additional Masses are being added for Christmas Eve, the first Mass may begin as early as 3 p.m. on December 24th. Contact the Vicar for Clergy if financial assistance is needed for additional help out priests or click here to fill out the request form . For tips on accommodating more Mass goers , click here.
Simultaneous Masses in different parts of the parish facility or at parishes with multiple parish sites. For example, 4 p.m. Mass in the church proper and in the gymnasium.	Yes, strongly encouraged, with separate presiders, ministers, musicians, etc. Contact the Vicar for Clergy if financial assistance is needed for additional help out priests or click here to fill out the request form . For tips on accommodating more Mass goers , click here.
Mass Attendance Registration Systems	If using as a means to avoid overflow attendance, click here for best practices .
Livestream Overflow Seating	Yes, if the space is contiguous to the church proper. No livestreaming to another part of the facility that is not connected to the church.
Face Coverings	Yes, Mass attendees should wear as an act of charity toward others.
Advent Reconciliation Services	Yes, following social distancing protocols. Review best practices .
Parking Lot Masses	No

EVENT OR INITIATIVE	RESTRICTIONS
Choirs	No
Hand Bell Choirs	Yes, with social distancing.
Cantor	Yes
Altar Servers	Yes, wearing face coverings and with social distancing.
Woodwind (flute, saxophone, etc.) and Brass Instruments	No
String or Percussion Instruments	Yes
Advent Wreath lighting/ Advent candle processions	Yes, those under same household, socially distanced from priest/deacon and other ministers.
Advent Prayer Gatherings (Vespers, Evening prayer, Advent by Candlelight, etc.)	Yes, but without socializing or food before/during/after.
Oplatki sales, Wreath sales, Giving Trees, etc.	Yes, with extra precaution on social distancing for people and vendors. Review best practices.
Bake Sales, Cookie Walks, Pancake Breakfasts	No
Christmas Caroling, Visits with St. Nick, Live Nativities, Christmas Pageants, etc.	No
Christmas Markets, Advent Fairs, etc.	No
Ethnic Celebrations, such as Las Posadas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Simbang Gabi	Yes, for prayer, but without socializing before/during/after.
Gathering children during Christmas Eve homily on the steps, Christmas plays, prelude concerts, etc.	No

EVENT OR INITIATIVE	RESTRICTIONS
Using pre-recorded music for prelude or concert	Yes
Parish/school Christmas or Advent concerts, pageants, recitals, etc.	In person, no. However, we highly encourage virtual concerts and recitals to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons, as well as to maintain parish, school and family traditions.
Parish Giveaways at the end of Mass (Dynamic Catholic books, etc.)	Yes, encouraged while observing safety protocols, including wearing of face coverings and gloves for those distributing.