

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As you well know we are experiencing a rise in the number of people affected by the various strains of the COVID virus and as such, a growing concern for the wellbeing and safety of our parishioners and visitors to Immaculate Heart of Mary, especially during the Christmas celebrations and holiday.

With that in mind and after prayerful consideration and in consultation with our parish staff and pastoral council, and in union with parishes in our area, we are (re)implementing and encouraging some of our protocols and procedures. Beginning on Christmas Eve (Friday December 24, 2021) masks will be required when in the church building at IHM, hand sanitizer will be available at all of the entrances and near the confessionals in the church building, cleaning in between masses will resume, and, while social distancing can be difficult because of the larger number of people at some of our Masses, some pews will be reserved for those who are required to keep social distance.

While we welcome and invite you to join us in our Christmas celebrations, please be aware of your own health needs and comfortability, as well as the health of those who will be with you. These are very trying times for our community and nation. But we believe it is a matter of Christian Charity to protect our fellow citizens and parishioners. We do not want our masses to become “super spreader” events nor return to completely virtual programming. You may even consider coming to one of the less attended masses on Christmas Day rather than on Christmas Eve. Our 4:00 pm and 10:30 pm Masses on Christmas Eve as well as the 10:00 am Mass on Christmas Day will also be livestreamed.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated as we continue to move forward. While we all hoped that this would not be an issue during Christmas, it unfortunately is an issue. I thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation and ask your continued prayers for all who have been affected by the Coronavirus.

**As you manage your plans for Christmas, please remember that:
Masks will be required in Church beginning Christmas eve and until further notice.
Frequent hand sanitizing is encouraged.**

While this may be difficult, and even overwhelming, we do know that indeed our God is with us, Emmanuel, as we celebrate the birth of His Son, Jesus the Christ, who indeed continues to be with us now and always.

With Peace and Prayers for a blessed and joy filled Christmas,

Fr. Michael Ward,
Pastor
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish