



## YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!

At Christmas and always. For Mass and all events. In fact, we are less if you aren't with us. We're very excited to celebrate Christmas with you and have been actively praying for all those who will be joining us.

Like family gatherings when everybody's there, space around the table can seem a little tight. We wanted to offer you some helpful hints and guidelines to make your experience with us a little less trying and a whole lot more grace-filled for all.

### Getting Here

**Arrive early!** It's always a blessing to have everybody together, but the blessing of having so many at one time also presents some challenges. Arrive early. Our doors (while figuratively always open!) will be unlocked one hour prior to the start of Mass. We'll have activities to help keep the kids occupied as we know it's hard for them to wait patiently and be attentive. (It's also a challenge for Fr. Rob!)

### Carpool!

Like your driveway at big parties, parking can be an issue. The capacity of our building and parking lot are limited. Please carpool and come together with as many family members as can fit in your car (We'll have a prize for the most people stuffed into a single car - safely that is!). Regrettably, parking attendants and police officers will have to turn cars away when the parking lot is full. If this happens to you, we're so sorry but we're obligated by law. The 3pm Mass will be the most popular so you might want to attend the 5pm Mass or the 10am Mass on Christmas Day.

### Arriving For Mass

#### Hang your coats!

When you arrive (early!), please hang up coats in the coat closet to allow more space in the pews. The coat closet is located to the left of the main entrance.

### Seating!

Like having guests at home, we can't always do what we are used to doing to make room for those guests. Our greeters will assist in finding the next available pew for you. This allows for a more orderly seating process. To be fair to all, we can't seat you until your entire group is present. For the same reason, we also can't allow the saving of extra seats once you're in the pew. No need to be worried though, we've planned ahead with additional seating in the Legacy Room with live video feed so you can still celebrate with us.

### Nursery and Children's Ministries!

Families need to be together at Christmas so our children's nursery will not be available for any of the Masses. Plan accordingly if you have little ones. Rest assured, Mass will be family-friendly, and children of all ages will enjoy Fr. Rob's special Christmas homily! Remember God put the wiggle in them, and we can appreciate the gift of your children.

### Look Up!

Mass readings, songs and prayers will be displayed on the monitors in the church, narthex, and Legacy Room for your convenience to enhance your experience here with us for Christmas. We hope this makes it easier to pray and sing out loud. Everyone knows the words to the Christmas carols (except for Fr. Rob who only knows the first verse and keeps repeating it or makes up his own words!)

### Be Patient

Most importantly, remember that we are all there seeking God and God's love for us. This can be a trying time for some and a challenging experience for so many. All here come looking for a space to encounter Jesus who comes to save us, who comes to bring the gentle mercy of God. Remember to be a vessel of that gentle mercy even if things aren't perfect or we can't offer what you want. And remember also...

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