



St. Wendelin Catholic Church

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November 17, 2020

✠ Memorial of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

- Communion Antiphon (Third Sunday of Advent) – Isaiah 35:4

Dear Parishioners,

As we come upon the Season of Advent and the beginning of our new liturgical year, I wanted take the opportunity to summarize two memoranda from the Office of Bishop Thomas. These were sent on November 2 and give information on celebrating liturgies in Advent and Christmas amidst the COVID pandemic. If you would like to read these memoranda in full, you may visit <https://toledodiocese.org/page/coronavirus-covid-19>.

- **The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation continues to be dispensed for the foreseeable future. This dispensation remains in effect until the Bishop notifies us otherwise.**
 - Therefore, while December 8 (Immaculate Conception), Christmas (December 25), and January 1 (Mary, the Holy Mother of God) are normally days where we must attend Mass, this year, that obligation is dispensed.
- Pandemic precautions (wearing a mask, sanitation, physical distancing, etc.) remain in place.
- As the Church is deemed essential for the spiritual welfare of souls, all churches **will remain open** for public liturgies even if a specific county should go to a Level 4 (Purple) designation and/or if another “stay-at-home” order is issued by the State.
 - All Churches will continue to implement all federal, state, or local regulations, to the best of their prudent, pastoral, and practical ability.
- Pastoral visits to nursing homes, including bringing communion, are naturally going to be limited. Our parish has reached out to the local nursing homes and continues to keep in touch how to best minister to our parishioners.

Here are the schedules that we will have for our Advent and Christmas seasons.

ADVENT

- **Sunday, December 6: Jesus by Candlelight** - This evening of worship will serve as our main “extra” opportunity for confession. We will have five priests available to hear confessions.
- **Tuesday, December 8: Immaculate Conception** – Though the obligation is dispensed, we will have two Masses to honor our Blessed Mother on this patronal feast of the United States. Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM. There will be no 5:15 PM Mass that day.
- **Tuesday, December 15: Day of Grace** – Fr. Poggemeyer will be in the confessional from 8:00-10:00 AM, 12:00-2:00 PM, 4:00-5:00 PM, and after Mass until 7:00 PM for all who wish to partake of the Sacrament.

*He calls
His own...
and leads
them forth*

CHRISTMAS

- Of course, Christmas is one of the most tradition-laden times of the year. In many ways, the possibility of not experiencing those traditions this year is very discouraging. We seek comfort and peace in our Lord and with our families in this beautiful season. However, the Diocese and we are encouraging people to err on the side of caution this season. Again, the obligation to attend Mass is dispensed. We really do not know what attendance will be like. We are able to use the hall for overflow, but that is still limited to 50% capacity with factoring in social distancing.
- **We will have four Christmas Masses.** In a parish with only one priest, we simply cannot add any more Masses. This is especially true this year because of the fact that the day following Christmas begins the usual weekend schedule for the Feast of the Holy Family. Here is our Christmas Mass schedule:
 - **Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM.**
 - **Friday, December 25 at Midnight (12:00 AM) and 10:00 AM.**
- If you normally attend the 4:00 PM Mass, which is usually the largest crowd, consider attending another Mass this year. Last year, the 6:30 PM Vigil and 10:00 AM Christmas Day were the two smallest Masses in terms of attendance.
- As stated above, we will have our normal Sunday schedule for the Feast of the Holy Family (Saturday 4:30 PM and Sunday 8:00 & 11:00).
- There will be no daily Masses December 28 through 31.
- **January 1, 2021: The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** - Though the obligation is dispensed, we will have two Masses to honor our Blessed Mother on this Octave Day of Christmas. Masses will be celebrated:
 - December 31 at 4:30 PM, and
 - January 1 at 9:00 AM

As these dates get closer, we will keep you informed of which Masses will be livestreamed on our Facebook page for those who are unable to attend or those who feel it is prudent to remain at home. Although this season will look much different than in years past, let us hold tightly to our faith: that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born into this world as the Light – a Light that dispels all darkness – including the darkness of this pandemic.

*Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us;
and he will be called Wondrous God,
Prince of peace, Father of future ages:
and his reign will be without end.*

- Entrance Antiphon (The Nativity of the Lord: Mass at Dawn) – cf. Isaiah 9:1, 5; Luke 1:33

Know that our staff continues to pray for you. Let us continue to pray for the sick, the dying, those on the front lines, and all those suffering from the effects of this virus. May God send his healing touch upon our world and deliver us from this pandemic.

In Christ,
Anthony Gallina
Pastoral Associate for Worship

*He calls
His own...
and leads
them forth*



*Worship
Savior*