

November 16, 2020

Dear Parish Family,

At this point in time, it appears likely that the Coronavirus pandemic will have a significant impact on our Christmas Mass schedule. We have no idea how many people will feel comfortable attending Mass in person this Christmas. Right now, we are presuming that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass will still be in place. Although we expect lower attendance than normal, we really have no way to know for sure.

Many parishes in the Archdiocese had to implement various reservation and ticketing strategies when churches reopened for weekend Masses in July. We were fortunate in that we had enough room that this was not necessary for us. However, with the uncertain number of attendees at Christmas, we feel we must take precautions to be sure we don't have more people than we can accommodate safely. We hope you understand that the changes necessary for Christmas are not intended to restrict access or keep anyone from church, but rather to create the safest environment possible. The information in this letter will provide details about the changes we will need to implement for Christmas Masses.

Our Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows:

Thursday, December 24, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. (this Mass will be live-streamed)

Thursday, December 24, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. (note change from normal Christmas Eve time)

Thursday, December 24, 2020, at 10:00 p.m. (this Mass will be live-streamed)

Friday, December 25, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

Reservations will be required for all Christmas Masses, and tickets will be required for entry. These changes are necessary to ensure that we do not exceed the number of people we can accommodate in church while maintaining social distancing and remaining as safe as possible.

Parishioners are receiving this information about reserving seats for Mass prior to it being released to the general public. If you plan to attend Christmas Mass at Little Flower, you will want to act as soon as possible as we will publish this information to non-parishioners on December 1. If members of your extended family will be attending Little Flower, please feel welcome to make reservations for them as well.

We are currently developing a plan for music at Christmas Masses, but we expect the music to be similar at all Masses.

We will utilize an on-line program, **Eventbrite**, to reserve tickets for Mass. We will not be reserving specific seats, but ticketing will be used to limit overall capacity. Please use the following link, which you can type directly into your browser, to reserve tickets

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-mass-at-little-flower-catholic-church-tickets-127481640017>

If we have your email address on file, you will also receive this link in an email so you can go directly to the site or copy and paste the link to your browser. The software will direct you through the process, and you will receive an e-mail after making your reservation. The e-mail will include your tickets that can be printed. You will also have an option to load the **Eventbrite** app to your mobile device to show

your tickets. This is not required as you can use the printed tickets. However, tickets will be required for entry.

If you do not have a computer or do not feel able to reserve your tickets on-line, perhaps you can ask a family member to help you. If you have no way to make your reservation on-line, please call Jeannie at the parish office at 317-357-8352, and she will assist you.

If we exceed the number of tickets available for each Mass, we are hopeful that everyone who would like to attend will be flexible, choosing an alternate time if their preferred time is not available.

If you wish, you can be placed on a waitlist for that Mass time and will be notified if additional space becomes available. If you would like to also make a reservation for another time, please feel free to do so. If tickets become available for your preferred Mass, we can always cancel your other reservation.

Tickets will only be available until 24 hours before a given Mass is scheduled to start.

Obviously this is a big change and lot of information to take in. Just a few more points:

1. Please do not reserve tickets unless you are reasonably sure you will use them. If you are reserving for family members, please be sure they are planning to come before making your reservation. We know that last minute things will happen, but please be as sure as you can be so that your reservation does not prevent someone else from attending.
2. If your plans change after you register, you should cancel your reservation. Please call Jeannie in the parish office for help in canceling your reservation.
3. We will need to schedule Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, and Lectors for these Masses. We will do that by reviewing the list of ministers who have made reservations. So please, if you are a member of one of these ministries, make your reservations as everyone else, and you may be contacted to serve.
4. We will need help at the doors for all of these Masses. If you make a reservation and are able to help at the door as people arrive on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day, please send an e-mail to Tom at tcostello@littleflowerparish.org and volunteer to be a greeter at your preferred Mass.

Thank you for your support of Little Flower during the difficult times of the past several months. Most of all, thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to make our Christmas celebrations as safe as possible. As a parishioner, please take this opportunity to reserve your spot(s) early! Questions can be directed to Tom via e-mail at tcostello@littleflowerparish.org.

Sincerely,

Fr. Robert J. Gilday
Pastor