

Christmas 2020 at the Shrine of St. Joseph the Worker

(Barring any further restrictions from the State or Archdiocese)

In the midst of a global pandemic – the likes of which has not been seen for almost 3 generations – this year’s celebration of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus here at the Shrine will have to be curtailed out of concern for the well-being and safety of all who would like to participate.

In observance of the mandated safety protocols, we can accommodate a maximum of 105 worshippers at any given Mass – 80 in the upstairs Shrine church and an additional 25 in the downstairs Conference Hall where each Mass is simulcast with Communion being brought to those gathered there.

We will be offering 5 Masses straddling Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve we will celebrate Masses at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. On Christmas Day, we will celebrate Masses at 8:00, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

In order to fairly apportion seating, we will be making admission tickets available in advance – on the Sundays of Advent – (first come, first served). The tickets are enumerated and color-coded for each Mass and provide space to record your contact tracing information on the reverse side. If you plan to attend either the 4:00 or 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Masses, pick-up a ticket for each member* of your party at the end of the 4:00 p.m. Mass on any Sunday of Advent. Once the 105 tickets for each Mass have been claimed, the seating for those Christmas Eve Masses will be closed and only those presenting one of those tickets can be admitted. Ditto, for the Christmas Day Masses at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. – pick-up your tickets for those Masses when attending the 8:00, 10:00 a.m. or noon Masses on any preceding Sundays of Advent. A running tally of how many tickets still remain available for each Christmas Mass will be posted on our Website on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We will also be livestreaming our 4:00 o’clock Christmas Eve Mass as well as our 10 a.m. Christmas Day Mass on our Facebook page for those homebound or who are otherwise unable to participate in person.

Maybe we can console ourselves by appreciating that the Holy Family had to undergo much more severe restrictions and inconveniences in order to usher-in that first Christmas in Bethlehem.

** families may sit together without social distancing in church, but each person counts as one and each needs to secure an admission ticket.*