



DIOCESE of OWENSBORO

Advent & Christmas Guide

EVENT OR INITIATIVE	RESTRICTIONS
Additional Christmas Eve Masses	Proceed with caution. Consider the impact this would have on your parish staff/musicians. If additional Masses are being added for Christmas Eve, the first Mass may begin no earlier than 4 p.m. *2 p.m. on December 24th. For tips on accommodating more Mass goers , click here.
Simultaneous Masses in different parts of the parish facility or at parishes with multiple parish sites. For example, 4 p.m. Mass in the church proper and in the gymnasium.	Yes, strongly encouraged, with separate presiders, ministers, musicians, etc. For tips on accommodating more Mass goers , click here.
Mass Attendance Registration Systems	If using as a means to avoid overflow attendance, click here for best practices .
Livestream Overflow Seating	Yes, if the space is contiguous to the church proper. No livestreaming to another part of the facility that is not connected to the church.
Face Coverings	Yes, Mass attendees should wear as an act of charity toward others.
Communication	The calendar for 2020 actually invites us to consider the weekend of December 24-25-26-27 as one “festal unit.” Invite people to participate once during those four days, or even sometime during the following week during the Christmas octave. For example: “Our liturgies on Saturday and Sunday will be joyful celebrations of Christmas, including Christmas music, beautiful flowers, scriptures about the Holy Family, and an opportunity to join your parish family more safely in a less crowded setting.”

EVENT OR INITIATIVE	RESTRICTIONS
Advent Reconciliation Services	Proceed with caution. Consider how the priest will hear confessions safely and securely while maintaining physical distance and both parties wearing a mask. Review best practices.
Parking Lot Masses	No
Choirs	No
Hand Bell Choirs	Yes, with social distancing.
Cantor	Yes
Altar Servers	Yes, wearing face coverings and with social distancing.
Woodwind (flute, saxophone, etc.) and Brass Instruments	No
String or Percussion Instruments	Yes
Advent Wreath lighting/ Advent candle processions	Yes, those under same household, socially distanced from priest/deacon and other ministers.
Advent Prayer Gatherings (Vespers, Evening prayer, Advent by Candlelight, etc.)	Yes, but without socializing or food before/during/after.
Flower sales, Wreath sales, Giving Trees, etc.	Yes, with extra precaution on social distancing for people and vendors. Be sure to check with your local partner to see if they are accepting gifts this year, or if monetary donations are preferred. Review best practices.
Bake Sales, Cookie Walks, Pancake Breakfasts	No
Christmas Caroling, Visits with St. Nick, Live Nativities, Christmas Pageants, etc.	No
Christmas Markets, Advent Fairs, etc.	No
Ethnic Celebrations, such as Las Posadas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Simbang Gabi	See guidelines.



EVENT OR INITIATIVE	RESTRICTIONS
Gathering children during Christmas Eve homily on the steps, Christmas plays, prelude concerts, etc.	No
Parish/school Christmas or Advent concerts, pageants, recitals, etc.	In person, no. However, we highly encourage virtual concerts and recitals to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons, as well as to maintain parish, school and family traditions.
Parish Giveaways at the end of Mass (Dynamic Catholic books, etc.)	Yes, encouraged while observing safety protocols, including wearing of face coverings and gloves for those distributing.

