

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Archdiocese of St. Louis Encourages Faithful to Consider Attending Later Christmas Masses

ST. LOUIS - The Archdiocese of St. Louis is asking all those who plan to attend Christmas Mass to consider attending the later Masses offered at their chosen parish, including on Christmas Day, this year.

The <u>Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis (New Cathedral)</u>, the <u>Basilica of St. Louis, King of France (Old Cathedral)</u> and many other archdiocesan parishes are adding additional Christmas Eve Masses as needed, and/or registration requirements, to ensure social distancing during the celebration of Christmas Mass. However, many Christmas Eve registrations are already filling up, so, in what has been a year of change, the Archdiocese of St. Louis is encouraging all to consider a change in what may be normal tradition and to attend a later Mass on Christmas Day. Celebrating with Our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Day will help our parishes accommodate all who wish to attend in-person.

For the elderly and those with compromised immune systems, parishes within the Archdiocese of St. Louis continue to offer live-stream options for viewers to participate in Masses virtually. We encourage those planning to attend Christmas Mass in-person or virtually to contact their chosen parish for the latest information on Mass times and any in-person registration requirements. Regular Mass streaming schedules, links, and more resources to aid in celebrating the Advent and Christmas seasons can be found at ArchSTL.org/loy.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis will continue to support the needs of the greater St. Louis community through its parishes and charities. The archdiocese understands the economic impact the pandemic is having on our community as a whole. However, in times like this, it is even more urgent for us to pray for and assist our brothers and sisters who are in the most need. We encourage those who are able to consider supporting their parishes through online giving, mail-in or drop-off contributions, as well as organizations that are responding to this crisis, such as <u>Catholic Charities of St. Louis</u>, <u>The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis</u> and the <u>Annual Catholic Appeal</u>.

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